a miscellany of Fortean curiosites

THE NEWS

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on Fortean phenomena

OCTOBER 1975

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NEW PRICE INCREASE.

It is with the greatest regret that we have to announce that from this issue on our price will be 50p/USA$1.25. per issue and pro rata - for the full rates see left.

Our last increase was in Sept 1974, and over the past year in which all financial hell has broken loose we have successfully absorbed every increase in printing and postage costs. The present increase may seem a lot but is vital to our survival otherwise we would not even entertain it. Not only do we have to regain the small security eroded by price rises over the past nine months, but this month **sees** another punitive increase in postal charges, and further increases in paper and printing costs in the wake of another oil hike. So, please bear with us. This new price of ours, God willing, will see us through the next set of crises at least. All current subscriptions at the old rate will be honoured. In view of the lack of notice, we'll accept renewals of subs currently lapsing, at the old rates, if renewed promptly.

INFO & THE NEWS.

On my recent trip to America, I had prolonged discussions with Paul Willis, President of INFO, on how best we can cooperate in serving the continuance of Fort's work. THE NEWS has been warmly welcomed into INFO's family, and our affiliation firmly cemented, and there has been no compromise on editorial independence. Several things have emerged from this destined meeting already. The first is that the INFO JOURNAL will go onto the same bimonthly schedule as THE NEWS, and it is hoped that a slightly thinner and more frequent JOURNAL will sustain the increasing appetites of the membership. The second is that we have worked out a special deal giving a discount on a joint subscription to both THE NEWS and the JOURNAL on both regular and contributing levels of membership to INFO. The basic deal is listed on the left - but for more information please write to THE NEWS, or to INFO: Box 367, Arlington, VA22210, USA. For those who are already subscribing to either magazine and wish to take advantage of the Joint Deal - apply as normal and we'll credit your subscription with the appropriate mags due to you.

The emphasis in the JOURNAL is towards more articles and deductive work; THE NEWS leans more towards reporting current Fortean events - though neither mag feels particularly bound by this. Here in THE NEWS your editor would like to evolve the most up-to-date reporting, and to do that we need to enlist the help of each reader, for whom we do this anyway. We need you to send in material clipped or copied from your reading, local papers, anywhere. Such is the pressure on your editor that he can't acknowledge each clipping - but rest assured. Not only are they deeply appreciated but will all be used eventually and credited to you. (Follow the instructions listed on the left). Sometimes they

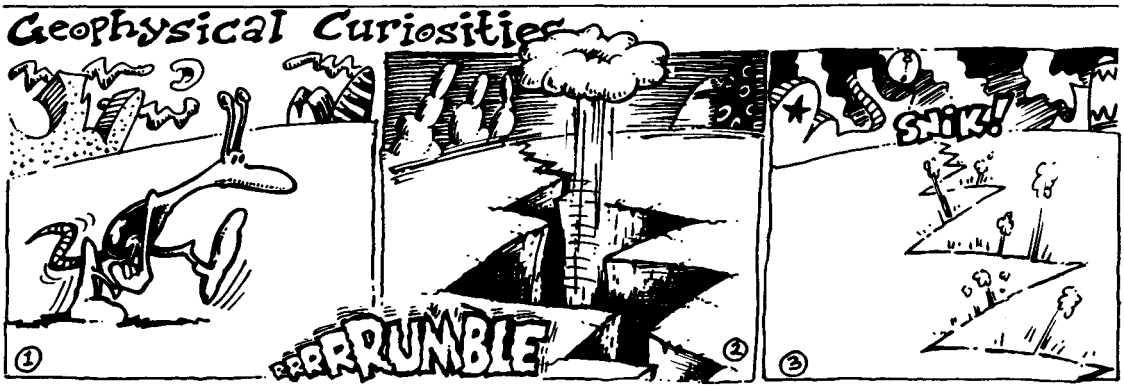
are not used immediately, but are kept back for a suitable time (not too long) or a featured compilation. In all cases, the more people we have out scouring the world's media, the better our service to you. It really is a case of the more the merrier - so please spread the word. This goes for both news and data on Fortean events, and any articles on related issues that you think may interest someone somewhere that we can slot into our 'Did You See...?' feature.

FEST & LAST.

For those who have inquired - the proceedings of **FORTFEST** 75 will eventually be published by **INFO**. There are considerable technical difficulties that will delay the matter, like finding the time and equipment to transcribe most of the talks. The Fest was not as well attended as the previous year's, but there were more lectures, and their standard was also constantly high and interesting.

Next year's Fest will be more conveniently located, probably in Washington - and we'll bring you news as it develops.

Last, and by no means least, I'd like to express my sincere thanks to all friends and Forteans in the USA, both those who went out of their way to make me feel very welcome and enjoy my stay there, and those who made it all possible. The best way I can show my appreciation to them all is by endeavouring to continue and improve **THE NEWS** at every opportunity. With such support dedication is an easy thing. Thank you one and all.



As a prelude to several of the items in this issue we have compiled the following list (doubtless incomplete) of quake and volcanic activity over the past few months. You'll find Paul Devereux's and Andy York's discussions of the developments at Stoke in their article on Leicestershire phenomena later on in this issue, and also our own summary of the freakish weather that plagued Britain in your Editor's absence. One thing that occurred to us while assembling this list was the apparent sceneshifting - that each hiatus in the groups of tremors at Stoke was filled by geological activity in some remote region. This may or may not mean anything at all.

MAY: 26 - ocean quake between Azores & Iberian peninsular, felt in Canaries, Madeira, Las Palmas & Lisbon.
30 - minor tremor in Lancashire.
JULY: ? - (early) volcanoes blow in Hawaii & Mount Baker, Washington State, USA.
8 - strong quake in Pagan, Burma.
16 - strong tremors in Stoke in early hours.
19 - strong tremors in Stoke in early hours, & volcano blows in Java.
22 - strong tremors in Stoke in early hours.
23 - minor tremors in Stoke.
? - strong tremor recorded at Fort William, Scotland, about this time.
24 - strong tremor in Stoke.
25 - minor tremors in Stoke.
AUG: 5 - strong tremors in Stoke in evening.
15 - tremor in Kensington, London.
19 - tremor in Stoke.
21 - tremor in Stoke.
24 - tremors in Hereford.
SEPT: 6 - major quake at Lice, Turkey. Estimated 3000 dead, 4000 wounded. 6.8 Richter.
8 - minor tremors in Lice region, Turkey.
10 - tremors in Stoke.
12 - "three tremors in 12 hours." in Stoke.
20 - quake in Hokkaido & Honshu, Japan.

The eruption on Mount Baker, Washington State, sometime in early July was described as "sudden" and experts "baffled and excited" (Daily Mail, 10 July 75. Cr: Steve Moore). Officially listed as the world's 456th active volcano, it has been long dormant. Nevertheless its current throat-clearing is giving authorities some concern, and at least 10,000 acres have been closed off around Mt Baker in anticipation of avalanches, landslides, and the submergence of "tens of miles" under hot mud, ash and lava. Already it has burned its way up through solid rock, melted a 135ft glacier into a lake of 94 degrees F and

rising, and produced a runoff of sulphuric acid that has "killed fish miles away". Dr Stephen Malone of Washington University said: "We have nothing in the historical record to compare with it. It is all so unusual we have no way of knowing what will happen."

Interestingly, at a recent meeting of the International Geophysical Union at Grenoble, three US sociologists read a paper on the financial and political effects of predicting quakes 9months to 3 years in advance for populated areas. These ranged from drops in property values, heavy unemployment, permanent closure of businesses, and mass evacuation. Hmmm - it doesn't seem to be happening much in San Francisco - people seem to have short memories and more immediate problems. (New Scientist, 18 Sept 75.)

Nevertheless, we do have warning about a blow-up that promises to be bigger than that which took out Pompeii. A recent note (Reveille, 2 May 75. Cr Nigel Watson) says that "Washington" scientists expect Mount St Helens, Oregon, about 200 miles from Mt Baker, to erupt in the next 25 years. Mt St Helens, said to be the most powerful volcano on the American mainland, last blew in a serious way in 1500 AD, throwing out nearly a cubic mile of lava and ashes. It erupted again in 1857 and has been rumbling ever since. There is no town in the vicinity - though doubtless one populated by geologists will form when the time comes.

PSI-SMIC ACTIVITY?

One of the standard fobs in the poltergeist game is the blaming of the mysterious activity on undetected tremors or "underground streams". How this latter was supposed to transport objects through the air escapes us, but we do bare in mind the hypothesis favoured by several researchers of the connexions between Fortean phenomena (including UFOs and Mystery Animals) with water.

The case we are about to mention occurred not long after the tremors in Llandrillo (and elsewhere) last year (see NEWSes 3,4 & 5.) and raises an interesting question: when things start shaking in one house, is it more reasonable to think of a poltergeist than a tremor, and conversely, when shakes start all over the town, is it more reasonable to think in terms of a tremor than multiple-poltergeists? Perhaps. But suppose all the effects of a tremor occur but nothing seismic is recorded? Ah, what then?

The good people of Stoke and Flash Lane can be forgiven their nerves after going through the things we are recording in the last few months. In that case, pity the poor residents of Bilston, in Midlothian, who have had to put up with eerie noises and vibrations which have remained untraceable for the last 10 years. Over that period, the villagers, who are said to believe hauntings to be the cause of the trouble, have had their fears ignored. But now Councillor Brian Ross plans to call in seismic experts. He said: "These people are not crazy. There is something there and it is most alarming. I have heard it myself."

Villagers claim that plaster has fallen from ceilings and cracks have appeared in window ledges. Mrs Barbara Ketchen, of Caerketton Ave, says she has to take sleeping pills to sleep : "But even then I am often kept awake by the noise. It is really frightening. The whole house seems to shake and sometimes I feel the place is going to fall down." A neighbour, Mrs Isabella Haig, said: "It can be pretty spooky at night when the windows rattle for hours on end."

Councillor Ross favours the idea that surface compressors at Bilston Glen colliery are somehow responsible - but the National Coal Board, who seem to get a lot of stick these days (see p 8.) in turn blame it on a geological fault. We'd be interested to know if those seismic fellows found anything interesting - or anything at all. (Scottish) Sunday Mail, 5 May 1974. Cr: L Beer.

SCORCHED EARTH.

The Dorset town of Clavell's Hard, near Kimmeridge, was the scene of some strange effects - smoke rises from cracks in the cliffs, the ground is hot to the touch, and evil-smelling gasses have killed off the grass. Deep down, the ground is actually on fire.

The phenomenon was discovered by Douglas Cole, a young geology research student from Southampton. He said: "There is a 3'6" layer of oil shale underneath the rock which caught fire. This is an extremely rare occurrence - the last case noted in geological records was in 1826. Immediately under the loose stone the ground is red hot. If you thrust a stick into it, it would burn. I measured temperatures of just over 500 degrees C."

Mr Reginald Leonard, engineer for Wareham Rural Council, said: "We often hear of spontaneous combustion in rubbish tips. But this is the first I have heard of it happening in oil shale." Dail Mail, 13 Dec 73. Cr: Steve Moore.

CURIOUS BOULDERS.

Michael Start sent us an item from one of the Sussex local papers - and we quote verbatim from 'Country Diary' by John T White.

"One large boulder should not have caused me such excitement. But this was a large pink boulder. It was rounded and polished and the place was the Selsey peninsular poking a tentative finger out into the Channel. It looked very much like granite, perhaps from Brittany or the Channel Islands. It was far from home, that was certain. I hunted around the area and found another large boulder of different texture and colour in a village school playground. The headmaster told me that it was dug out of the gravels beneath the playground when a new watermain was laid. He directed me along the shore to West Wittering where there were several more boulders

resting on the muddy tidal flats. If I had seen them in the North Country I would have been happy to call them glacial erratics, stones dragged far from their origin by the movement of ice. But the conventional view of the Ice Age puts the limit of the ice sheet on a line of the rivers Severn and Thames and leaves the South uncovered. Perhaps icebergs drifted up the Channel and dropped loads of debris as they melted? There have been several indications in recent years that our knowledge of the Ice Age is imperfect."

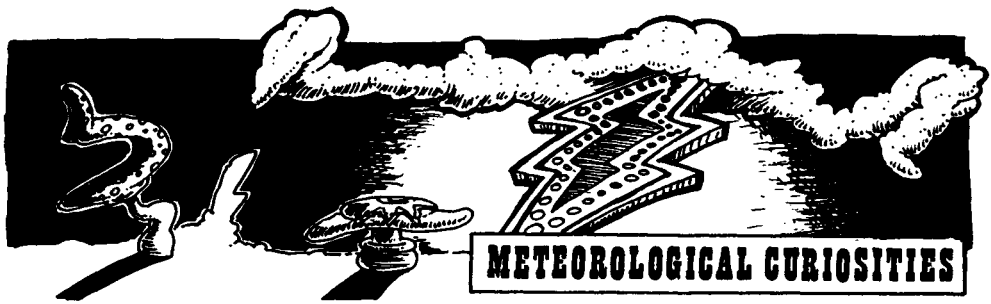
A GARDEN MENACE IN HAMSTEAD.

This Hamstead is a suburb of Birmingham, and is not to be confused with the one with a 'p' in London with an equally bizarre visitation (see p7)

Mrs Anne Hodgkins of James Rd, Hamstead, says that her garden and those of her neighbours were constantly under a "sea of black or brown smelly liquid" - and that no one knew what it was. "It is impossible to walk on the lawn because you just sink ankle deep in the liquid. It has been dry now for several days and the problems are just as bad. The gardens have been like this for years and getting steadily worse, and no one knows what is causing it. When it rains, the lawns are completely covered and the garden looks like a lake."

Her neighbour, Mrs Minnie Carr, has been fighting the problem for six years. She said tests had been carried out, but no action taken. Mrs Hodgkins added that the substance had rotted away part of the garden fence and that if her sons got any on their skin they came out in spots.

A spokesman for Sandwell's Technical Services Department said he had no knowledge of the problem but "would have the matter investigated." Birmingham Evening Mail, 29 April 75. Cr: David Sutton.



It happened at least once before - the anniversary of Fort's birthday (Aug 1874, see p9.) appearing to trigger meteorological chaos. You will find a summary of the climatic celebrations of the nativity of 1972 (generally reckoned to have been a vintage year for freak weather) in INFO Journal 9, pp36-38.

From early June this year there were signs that our weather was going mad - on the same day, June 2, there was snow in Edinburgh and London was "hotter than Casablanca". By early August temperatures hit the 90Fs; the hottest in London for 27 years, and the hottest in Paris since records began in 1873. The heat drove people and things crazy: ice-cream vendors fought each other in Bucks, while in Norfolk they were driven off the beaches by swarming flies; there was mass nude sunbathing in (gasp!) Hove, Sussex, while in York people began throwing themselves off bridges, fullyclothed, into the river Ouse; in Guernsey 12,000 trays of tomatoes went soft, while at London docks, 121 lorries became full of melted butter; firemen shipped water to 65,000 parched hens in Cottenham, Cambs, and in Germany farmers feared for the virility of their pigs; and the occupants of an experimental solar-house built by London Polytechnic at Bradville, Bucks, were driven outside by the scorching room-temperatures of 158F. (Daily Mirror, Daily Mail, 8 Aug 75; Sunday Times, Sunday Express, 10 Aug 75. Cr: Steve Moore & Nigel Watson.)

Naturally the meteorologists were loudly berated, and none got more stick than Prof HH Lamb, of the Climatic Research Unit (E Anglia U) who is known to the British press as 'The Ice Man' for his expression (only a month or so prior to this heatwave) that Britain is sliding towards a mini-ice-age. But despite shouting: "No..no..no..no. I'm not going to see anybody." (Daily Mail, 8 Aug 75. Cr: Steve Moore.) he did manage to get quoted in quite a few articles - mostly the sort newsmen like, with experts contradicting each other in succeeding paragraphs. (See Sunday Times & Sunday People, 10 Aug 75, for a cross section.) - and remained with his belief that the very eccentricity of the weather is a symptom of an earth which is growing colder. (For more on this subject see New Scientist, 18 Sept 75, p665.)

At least one honest opinion made the papers - Dr John Green of Imperial College (London) said: "I can tell you the sky is clear because we have an anticyclone. But if you want to know why we have an anticyclone, I have to say that the atmosphere is so infernally and beautifully complicated that I just don't know."

All these events formed the background to

a meeting of the World Meteorological Office at East Anglia University (Observer, 24 Aug 75. Cr: Steve Moore.) on climatic problems. In their pronouncements we find no reference to the influence of the sun on our weather. Yet Nature (v257, p113.) recently published a statistical study that leaves very little doubt about the reality of the theory (that solar flares affect the geomagnetosphere, leading to bright aurorae and troughs of low pressure in high latitudes. And this in virtually the same week that a bunch of 'scientists' attempt to debunk astrology (see item on p23 this issue.) Hah! Anyway, as INFO 9 records, the freak weather in 1972 was preceded by the "most terrific solar storm ever recorded." Indeed it can be pinned down tighter. It seems that ("by a happy coincidence" as New Scientist, 18 Sept 75, says) a Dr JT Hornig has published his observation that terrestrial effects are caused by flare groups between 6.7° and 19.9° E of the solar meridian. (Astrophysics & Space Science, v35, p133.) It would be interesting to discover what solar activity preceded our recent freak spell.

HAILSTORMS.

All the hot weather was relieved at intervals by freak storms. We only have cuttings on the following, but we know there were more - one reason for our persistant requests for data.

The year kicked off with a monster hailstone, or what was conveniently labled a hailstone, that hit a block of flats in the Fulham Road, London on Jan 24. Estimates of its weight vary (the London edition of the Daily Mirror says 5Olb; the Midlands edition, 65lb). Considerable damage to tiles and bricks was done to the flats (Fulham Court) - and the police were reported to have taken the monster away "as evidence".(?) (Cr: Frank Adey & Steve Moore.)

About May 7, a sudden storm in Mayes County, Oklahoma, precipitated hail about the size of "baseballs". Police dispatcher Movita Turner claimed to have measured one at 7" diameter. (Daily Mail, 8 May 75. Cr: Paul Screeton & Steve Moore. The Weekly News, 17 May 75, Cr: Nigel Watson.)

There was an intense storm on the morning of July 14, that raged for 30 minutes, with violent thunder and lightning, torrents of water, and hailstones up to 3" diameter. Greenhouses were wrecked, as were plastic rooves, cars dented, plants flattened. The sudden volume of water caused back pressure in the sewers, pushing up 3hwt drain covers and flooding the streets with water and debris. A photo of some of the smaller 'stones (this page) with details of the story appeared in the Birmingham Evening Mail, 14 July 75. (Cr: David Sutton.) We can interject a personal note here. The pesky missiles damaged the skylight of the flat so recently vacated by your editor, and much to the chagrin of Hunt Emerson who had just moved in.

FREAK TORNADOES.

What was called a 'freak tornado' "ravaged" the small Quebec town of St Bonaventure on 25th July. In its brief 15 minutes it did considerable damage - estimated at £1½M. About 400 residents were left homeless, at least 45 people injured - and a mother and twins were killed when their caravan was picked up and bowled along the ground. (Daily Mail 26 July 75. Cr: Steve Moore).

On the 5th August, the hot weather in Britain gave way to violent thunderstorms over the whole country - for an itinerary of damage see most papers of the following day. But there were odd things going on elsewhere too - in the Sahara desert, in the first rainfall in 6 years, a man drowned as he plunged into a pool that hadn't been there earlier. (Daily Mirror, 6 Aug 75. Cr: Steve Moore.)

On the night of the 5th, a "freak tornado" ripped through the east side of Coventry, damaging dozens of houses, uprooting trees, and ruining greenhouses and plants with its barrage of hail at it went through Baginton, Ansty, Wood End, Potters Green and Nuneaton. At the Baginton airfield,the airspeed indicator shot from 12mph to its maximum of 100mph, so it's conceivable the wind was even stronger. The height of the fury seems to have been fairly short, and brought with it such a torrent of

Some of the smaller hailstones that fell in Birmingham, on 14 July.

From: Birmingham Evening Mail, 14 July 75.

hailstones that "We couldn't see a thing out of our windows. It was as if a white sheet had been pulled over them." Another native said: "The storm only lasted for 10 minutes, then it went as suddenly as it had arrived. We were left to stare out in the murky heat at a sheet of ice slowly melting on the lawn. It was most unnatural." Estimates of the hailstones here ran to "at least an inch in diameter." One interesting aspect was the disagreement by some of the victims over the lightning. The news-account says that trees blocked five roads after being struck by lightning, yet a Mr Clark of the same area said: "It was terrifying. There was no thunder or lightning - just hail the size of halfcrowns and a violent wind." For other details - rooves wrenched off, 5ton aircraft blown backwards 20ft, and cows & sheep lifted and carried away - see the lengthy account in Coventry Evening Telegraph, 6 Aug 75. Cr: Ken Ratcliffe.

MORE STORMS.

There was another wave of violent storms a couple of days later, on the evening of the 8th Aug. More houses hit; powerlines down in Cornwall; people missing at sea. At Barrow-in-Furness, a boy was struck by lightning. Lightning striking a house in Great Wakering, Essex, melted polystyrene ceiling tiles onto a mother and her three children who were taken to hospital shocked and burned. Two young boys were trapped in an upstairs room when a house burst into flames in Whitefield, Manchester, during the storm. One was found later out and burned on an outhouse roof - the other died inside. One curious aspect is that the firebrigade seemed to be in some doubt as to whether the house was struck by lightning or not. A mysterious fire during the height of a violent storm? It's the sort of event that needs looking into. But this is made doubly interesting by a mysterious death during the height of a storm at Huddersfield on the same night (and which we'll keep for our 'Mysterious Deaths' section hopefully next issue) in which a woman was found battered to death in strange circumstances. (Daily Mirror & Daily Express, 9 Aug 75; Sunday Express, 10 Aug 75. Cr: David Sutton & Steve Moore.)

THE DELUGE AT HAMPSTEAD.

Ken Rogers is probably the most dangerous man in Britain. The Aug 15 edition of the Hampstead & Highgate Express & News published a feature about his intentions for an all-night vigil on the heights of Parliament Hill, Hampstead. Accompanying this is a photo of Ken, arm outstretched, jabbing his finger boldly at the sky. Doubtless it was taken a few days previously, but the answer came the previous evening. As the Guardian of the 16th Aug put it. "Darkness fell, the Heavens opened, and with thunder and lightning a Divine Hand reached through the clouds, pointed squarely at Hampstead Heath and hurled down hailstones as big as marbles, flood and disaster."

At 5.25pm on Aug 14 at least 3 million tons of water fell on this small area of North London (apx 4 miles by 2) in three hours. On the Heath, 6.72in of rain were recorded; much more than at any time since records began in 1910; the equivalent of nearly 4 months summer rain (in 3hrs). Needless to say, there was considerable flooding and its attendant damage and problems and you couldn't get a better summary of it than the 5 page special put out by the Hampstead & Highgate Express & News, 22 Aug 75.

Again the meteorologists were brickbatted. The London Weather Centre put the odds on its occurrence at over 1000 to 1. John Hillaby, a regular of the New Scientist and resident in the area, had only praise for the Ham & High's 'Storm Issue', pointing out how lightly the national press treated the matter. For instance, though other parts of London were affected by the storm, Hillaby, marvels at its peculiar localisation over Hampstead - Holborn, not far away recorded only 0.2 inches of rain.

And then there was its unexpectedness. Hillaby, writing in the New Scientist (11 Sept 75) "with the authority of hindsight, I recall plainly how, walking on the Heath early that morning, the hard pan of clay, in places heavily eroded, felt warm to the touch. The sultry breezes raised micro-vortices of swirling dust-devils that scuttled about like crabs. It felt cooler inside the apartment than out... I can't recall a tropical storm that matched the violence of that wet evening. At times there seemed to be no visible lines, no rods of rain as you normally see them. It fell in misty sheets with a noise like boiling fat."

Hundreds were left homeless when they had to hastily evacuate. Damage estimated at "tens of thousands" of pounds, not to mention the great personal losses sustained when sewage was backfired out of the overloaded drains to flood into numberless flats - most of them uninsured. There was utter chaos on the roads, the railways, and many thousands of phones were rendered inoperable. The police, fire and ambulance services mobilized a full-scale disaster alert. One man drowned in his flooded flat; and two people were paralysed and burned when they were blasted by lightning on the heath.

But Hillaby is wrong on one thing. He opens his account by saying that in the preceeding weeks "there had been no rain throughout most of the country..." See above for those on the 5th & 8th of the same month.

Oh yes - the hailstones. These were a modest ¾" and were soon lost in the vast quantity of water.

There were a couple of Fortean events, in themselves not out of the ordinary, but happening as they they do in the midst of this chaos are worthy of mention. During the heavy downpour a man in a flat in Onslow Gardens, Kensington, found a West African python on his kitchen window ledge...four storeys up. It was taken away to London Zoo. The other event is of the more esoteric Fortean data. The beginning

cont on p20...

PORTRAIT OF A FAULT AREA

by Paul Devereux & Andrew York

part two

Shortly after NEWS 11 went to the printers a new surge of seismic activity began in the Stoke area, and, later, in Hereford. This study of the Leics. - Staffs. fault area has, figuratively speaking, exploded in our faces. So beset are we by events that we cannot avoid a sneaking suspicion that dear old Charles F. is pulling some strings over there on t'other side of the Great Divide...

SEISMIC LANDSCAPE (& PART 1) REVISITED)

Between midnight on July 15th and 8 a.m. on July 16th tremors were reported affecting an area within a three mile radius of Stoke. At least two distinct, strong tremors were felt. Masonry was affected. One witness said that he heard "a heavy rumble" which he thought was an explosion. He described the tremor as being like "hitting something in a car." Another witness said: "There was a bang and the tremors were terrible, like a gigantic kick. Everyone was terrified." The cause of the tremors was "a mystery" it was stated, but the undercurrent of feeling was still that the National Coal Board was to blame. Another "explanation" that started to become fashionable from these tremors onwards was the idea of old mineworkings collapsing, causing subterranean rumbling and surface disturbance. Trent Vale was again a focus for the tremors, particularly "Flash Lane" to the north of the area.

Between midnight on July 18th and early morning on July 19th there was another set of tremors. Jack Ashley MP angrily demanded an investigation and it was learned that the Dept. of Energy had already ordered an enquiry after the tremors of the 15th/16th. Old mineworkings were again touted as a possible explanation in the press for tremors reported in the Leicester area on the 18th July.

Between midnight (here we go again) on July 21st and early morning on July 22nd there was a third set of tremors. The press slipped in the "collapsing mineworkings" again.

On 23rd July ATV Midlands reported that Stoke had suffered yet another tremor, though it was minor compared to the previous set of quakes.

BBC Radio 2 reported another tremor on Thursday 24th July. It was apparently pretty strong because it "threw furniture around".

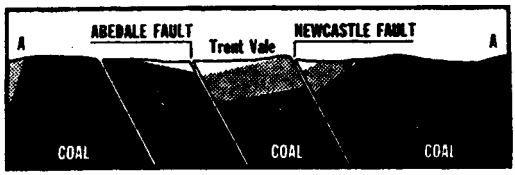
Another set of tremors was reported on the night of July 25th. The 'Times' of July 26th reported that a conference to discuss recurring earth tremors at Stoke was to be held on August 5th in Stoke itself. Representatives of the Dept. of Energy, the Global Seismic Unit (Edinburgh) and Keele University were going to attend, along with NCB and local authority officials. The 'Times' piece also reported an incorrect (too few) number of tremors in the Stoke area Was it coincidental that in the same edition the Nature-Times 'Science Report provided news of recently-designed statistical work in geophysics which was yielding evidence of a link between earthquakes, microchanges in the length of the day, variations in the magnetic field of the Earth and the Chandler Wobble (Earth-axis deviation)? The report added that similar work seeking the identification of other geophysical relationships might lead eventually to a more complete understanding of the Earth as an integrated dynamic system.

Newspapers (e.g. Times, Telegraph) reported on August 2nd that the NCB was going to advance cash for homes damaged in the tremors, but the NCB clearly indicated that it did not feel itself to be in any way responsible for the damage. The

money was made available as an interest-free loan to whoever would eventually foot the bill.

And so August 5th dawned, and hope of an answer to their torment gleamed bright in the eye of many a Stoke citizen. The conference duly met and ruminated and faced irate residents. What could the tremors be caused by? The results were catalogued by the press on August 6th. Shock headlines: "GEOLOGICAL FAULTS CAUSED TREMORS, EXPERTS BELIEVE" the Times said (notice cute use of past tense). What was this - no collapsing old mines? Indeed, Dr Christopher Browett of the Global Seismic Unit and other experts were confident that the tremors were not caused by old mineworkings collapsing. "It's not going to get into a nasty earthquake," Dr Browett said, to reassure everyone. In addition, seismic monitoring units were to be set up in the area as soon as possible. The Daily Mail became more excited by the issue than the Times and ran a major, tongue-in-cheek article on the tremors and the conference. The article pointed out that "only three quid up the line from Euston" there were series of tremors that were becoming "very scary". A geological expert interviewed on ATV, while trying to minimise the Staffs. tremors, let slip that Fort William in Scotland had had tremors two weeks before "10 times bigger" than the Stoke ones. (WHAAT?) That would date them around July 23rd.

Flash Lane: where the phenomena happen



How Trent Vale straddles the geological 'slip'

Diagrams from the Sunday Times, 10 Aug 75.

"Within hours of the conference" the hand of coincidence struck in the form of two severe tremors. The first one came in the evening of August 5th and the second on the morning of the 6th (Happy Birthday Charles Fort).* The Sentinel of August 6th ran huge front-page headlines on the double-tremor. (Ahh, and we have seen the whole story grow from a few teeny-weeny lines in the inner pages in months gone by. Remember you read about it first in the NEWS!) The Sunday Times of August 10th ran a feature on the Stoke tremors, remarking how "decidedly unBritish" the whole affair was. They reported that a Stoke resident was the first person in a particular insurance company's history to claim earthquake damages.

(Up on Charnwood, we heard the old-timers muttering into their beer that the experts could do worse than look in the forest for the cause of the Stoke tremors.)

We have no reports of tremors for the next week or so. On August 14th, ATV reported the setting up of the first of the monitoring stations in the Stoke area. The Times of the 19th August said that the universities of Durham, Edinburgh and Keele were joining forces on the study of the Staffs. seismic phenomena. ATV reported, also on the 19th, that there had been another Stoke tremor - "the 15th in the last 5 weeks."

The tremor-saga took an odd turn on the 15th August. A "mystery tremor" rattled a house in Kensington, W London, and brought a ceiling down. The West London Observer of the 21st August said that the cause of the tremor had not been discovered, although various theories (all rather weak) were put forward.

There was another Stoke tremor on August 21st. Then, on August 24th, a quake shook Hereford (one of Fort's well-chronicled areas)** and people ran out into the streets in their night-clothes. A "double muffled explosion" was heard at the time of the tremor. Experts at Stoke, obviously taken off guard, hurriedly exclaimed that there was "no connection" with the Stoke tremors...

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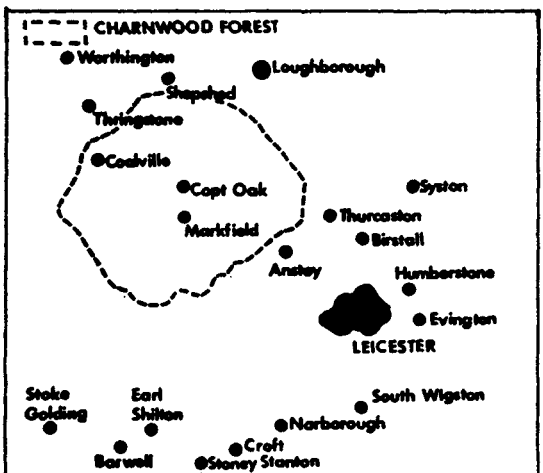
* Your editor has always thought August 9th to be Charles Fort's birthdate. Clearly there was some confusion in our minds and we scurried to Damon Knight's biography. He gives August 6th. Elsewhere, in the pages of INFO Journal the 9th is referred to. We'll investigate further - though it seems perfectly in keeping with the subject of our irreverence to establish a movable feast - or better yet, get the flagons out on both days - Ed.

** see NEW LANDS, chapter 29 - Ed.

There are distinctly Fortean aspects of the Stoke tremors. The Sentinel interviewed a resident who said that the tremors seemed to happen at 10 minutes to the hour every time. Indeed, the tremors following the Stoke conference occurred at 10.50 in the evening of the 5th Aug. and 10.50 the morning of the 6th (Happy synchronicity, Charles!). Most of the tremors seem to have taken place late in the evening or early morning. It was this sort of regularity that convinced many people that the NCB must be involved. One local man also mentioned (in the Sunday Times) that the tremors were nearly always preceded by heavy rain.

Certainly, the weather in Britain has been odd. Like most of N Europe, the UK has had one of its hottest summers for years. Yet at Buxton, not far from Leek, there was snow on the ground on June 2nd. Within 10 days the temperature was in the 80s at the same place and, later on, in the 90s. Even by the standards of British weather, that sort of change is ridiculous. Preceding and during the July-August tremor period, Leics. experienced some incredibly fierce electrical storms, particularly on Charnwood Forest. (Some folk on the Forest told us that they had also heard the 'old volcano' rumbling). Between mid-July and mid-August, thunder was frequently 'in the air' and many people complained of headaches and nausea. On the 5th August, the day of the conference in Stoke, there was a fierce thunderstorm and in the evening, 4 hours before the Stoke tremor the same day, a freak whirlwind swept across parts of the Hinckley area in the Stoke Golding direction, causing a great deal of damage. One witness said there had been a very cold wind just before the whirlwind appeared. The 8th August was the hottest day in Leicester since the 1880s. Electrical storms affected many parts of England and Wales during August, and an incredible flash storm struck London causing floods and disruption within minutes. There are no records of anything even approaching such a vicious meteorological event ever having happened in London before.***



NB: The above map also appeared in the last issue. After reduction during printing, the scale was not, of course, to scale anymore - Ed.

Around the world, too, there seems to have been considerable geological/meteorological disturbances. Amongst a whole procession of natural disasters and freak events, we note the new volcanoes in the USSR; tremors in California; the 'extinct' volcano Mount Baker, in Washington State, unexpectedly reactivating itself; a freak tornado in Quebec; freak rains in the Sahara - and so on. All during the period we are concerned with here. The recent Turkish earthquake is perhaps the most tragic example of this worldwide disturbance. ****

We notice a lunar correlation with regard to the UK tremors. Quakes in Stoke on the 21st, 23rd, 24th & 25th July (and Fort William around the 23rd) seem to relate to the full moon of the 23rd. The next group of tremors on the 5th & 6th August preceded the new moon of the 7th. The next group on the 19th, 21st & 24th (Hereford) August, coincided with the full moon of the 21st. The Stoke/Leics. tremors of the 15th/16th and 18th July do not seem to relate to this clear-cut, full-phase lunar pattern.

We also have more reports of UFO activity in the February - September period - with an increased number in August coinciding with the key seismic/meteorological period in the area. Some of these sightings are truly remarkable and most occurred within 10 miles of Croft Hill, some within 2 or 3 miles. Thus we grow increasingly confident in our observation that the area to the S and SW of Leicester, dominated by the probable Mesomphalos now called Croft Hill, is a key UFO area (in addition to its affinity for a variety of seismic, meteorological and supernatural events). LAPRO confirm that this is in accordance with their findings too. On some occasions UFOs appeared in the same part of the sky on 2 or 3 successive evenings. South Wigston was yet again a frequent UFO-sighting point.

*** see page 7, this issue - Ed.

**** see updated list on page 3, this issue - Ed.

During the summer months, sheep in Leics. have been disappearing in ones and twos and 10 sheep near Melton were "rustled" at the end of July. Police have no leads. As these events link time-wise with the increased UFO-activity, and as we are aware of American UFO-rustling phenomena, LAPRO are conducting an investigation.

Finally, we have just received news of very recent Stoke tremors. There was one on the 10th September, the first for a few weeks. Between the 11th and 12th there were more tremors around Stoke - 3 within 24 hours. During the night of the 11th, an exceptionally violent electrical storm swept across Leics. during which a house in Barwell (of meteorite fame - see NEWS 11/14) was taken apart by a thunderbolt (ball-lightning). A witness said that it looked like a "3-foot wide ball of fire". The area reeked of sulphur after the incident. The fellow inside the house was in the habit of wearing his cap while watching TV. It got blown off his head on the night of 11th September.

It is evident that meteorological phenomena and seismic events are somehow interlinked: they may not affect each other directly, but are perhaps expressions of some over-riding influence on that part, or the whole, of the planet. Although a few scientists seem to be beginning to think along these lines, most are still not sufficiently objective to have even noticed the correlation. It is part of a whole area of consideration that we hope to return to at a future date, but for now we must continue with our many-faceted study of the Leics. fault area (with the occasional glance in the Staffs. direction).

THE SUPERNATURAL LANDSCAPE.

A creature called 'Shag Dog' was said to have an abode in a swampy patch of ground known as 'Shag Dog Pit' along Black Lane, a track running from Birstall to Belgrave. (A fragment of this lane has survived as a steep suburban road called Kilby Avenue, but the pit has been filled in.) "A big, black mastiff kind of dog...wild, with luminous open jaws, like dying coals in a dark room, and eyes wide and staring, and glowing with unearthly light".(9). It was said to be in the habit of following people along Black Lane before disappearing. On one occasion, it is said to have saved a girl from being accosted by appearing and frightening off her would-be attacker. One wonders if Black Lane could have been part of a ley, as the name 'Black' can sometimes be associated with a ley, as Watkins (10) tells us. Both Birstall and Belgrave are linked with the legend of the giant, Bel. He boasted that he could reach Leicester from Mountsorrel

The Hangman's Stone, near "The Oaks" on Charnwood.

in 3 jumps. He mounted his horse at Mountsorrel, took one leap to Wanlip, Bel's horse burst its gall at Birstall, and Bel himself died at Belgrave, just short of Leicester. So we may have here an interesting Black Dog/giantlore/ley connection.

Birstall is about 10 miles from Croft Hill. Another Black Dog encounter took place within 2 or 3 miles of that enigmatic eminence. One fine night in 1806, a man was walking between Stoney Stanton and Sapcote, his mind "anxiously engaged upon a problem in mathematiks"(7). He was about 80 yards from Scholar's Bridge a place noted for its supernatural appearances, when he heard "a groaning sort of noise" he could not account for, and which alarmed him. He continued a short distance and he had just put his foot on the stone at the base of a stile close to the bridge when an animal, larger than a fox, which the man supposed to be a 'shagged dog', brushed by his right shoulder with "a surprising velocity". He never saw the animal on the ground on either side of the stile, but only in mid-air, after which it was swallowed up in the darkness of the night.

Close to the spot where this encounter took place is Mill Hill, formerly famous for fairy-rings and fairy-dances, about which Nichols noted the local people told many "wonderful, traditionary tales" up to his day.

"Hand in hand we'll dance around,
Because this place is fairy-ground."

What qualities, we wonder, does an area have to possess to be considered "fairy-ground"?

Although Leics. is not noted for its ghostlore, we have found a large number of accounts of hauntings and ghostly traditions widely scattered. In this article we can only briefly outline a few

of the ones we have gathered together, but we hope this will prove sufficient to indicate that the area is quite rich in the kind of phenomena termed 'ghostly'.

Some Leics. inns seem to have more than merely alcoholic spirits! The 'Woodman's Stroke' in Rothley (where a former temple of the Knights Templars was situated) is reputedly haunted by the ghost of a big fellow, very tall and gaunt. He is known as Gregory and it is a sign of good luck to see him (The Grange at Rothley also has an energetic poltergeist on the premises). A grey lady haunts a pub in Welford. The 'Belper Inn' in Newton Burgoland has an active ghost that moves furniture, half suffocates some male customers but tends to have a grope at the ladies. The 'Moat Hotel' in Humberstone has a similar poltergeist-type ghost. Another noisy spirit haunts the 'Bakers Arms' pub adjoining the village green at Blaby, while at the 'Plough Inn', Birstall, there is a ghost which on occasion heaves barrels all over the place.

Various halls in the county are said to be haunted - among them being the halls at Tilton, Narborough, Bushby (polt) and Bosworth (perpetually damp bloodstain). An extraordinary ghost tradition is attached to Burleigh Hall. A "weird and fearsome ghost" made regular visits to the place, and made the house spin round and round, especially on dark and stormy nights - to the great terror of the residents. One night, during a particularly violent storm, the ghost gave a harsh word of command and the house was transported bodily to its present position from the summit of a neighbouring hill. The ghost has never since returned. This tradition is reminiscent of legends often associated with ancient churches, but in reverse - churches are usually transported to high places.

In 1918 a number of people saw a grey, ghostly figure gliding through Markfield graveyard. In 1965 several people saw a headless figure drifting up the middle of West Street, Leicester. A shapeshifting entity was seen a number of times in 1972 in the 'Freewheeler Club' in Churchgate, Leicester. The club, which was built on an old site, had to be exorcised. The 'Britella' factory in Leicester also had to be exorcised after a fearsome spirit caused trouble with workers.

Asfordby Rectory is haunted by a poltergeist, and a hunch-backed ghost haunts St. Helen's church at Oxenden Magna. The vicar of St. Peter's church in Thornton had to exorcise his own vicarage recently because his wife was disturbed by a ghost. A derelict house near the church itself was sometimes seen to have ghostly lights in it. The very ancient church of St. Nicholas in Leicester is said to be haunted. The present vicar of Ashby Folville told us that he and his family had recently moved from Coleorton Rectory (near Thringstone) which was haunted by an old woman and a noisy crowd of phantom young girls. The vicar and members of his family had directly experienced aspects of this multiple haunting. His wife had often been surrounded by the ghostly sound of the phantom children's feet; his son had heard his name called while the house was empty; both he and his son watched a housebell being moved inexplicably, and they all felt frequent and sudden drops in temperature. On one occasion the loudspeakers of a disconnected hi-fi began to emit unintelligible mutterings (The hall at Coleorton was a focus for Wordsworth, Scott, Coleridge, Southey, Constable, Wilkie and others in its day)

A headless figure is said to periodically appear on a footpath between Quorn and Barrow. A Dr. Kirkland witnessed a spectral funeral procession on the Ashby road, and the A428 road (about 4 miles south of the Leics. border) is haunted by a phantom lorry. Numerous motorists have reported looking in their rearview mirrors to see a lorry bearing down on them at top speed and then simply pass through their vehicle. Eyewitnesses on the roadside claim to have seen the lorry passing through a whole line of traffic.

Mr C.J.Williams (11) has written about Leics. 'White lady' ghosts. The county has at least three, and possibly more. One is at Grace Dieu Priory (now in ruins), another is at the 'Hermitage' and a third White Lady supposedly haunts the churchyard at Belgrave. We seem to recall the tradition of another one at Bradgate House. Williams links the White

Standing Stone next to Grace Dieu Priory ruins.

lady ghosts with a widely known ghost phenomenon. An example of this type of ghost was named 'Bertha' in Bohemia and Williams speculates that this may refer to an ancient nature goddess 'Berchta', meaning 'the brilliant one'. He also points out that the Leics. White Lady ghosts are associated with ancient sites. The Grace Dieu Priory spectre has been particularly active: buses have stopped for it at the roadside next to the ruins and it has sometimes moved in front of motorists causing them considerable alarm. A standing stone is extant in the field alongside Grace Dieu.

An old man who once lived in Hathern used to walk to his favourite pub in Shepshed almost every night, playing on his pipe. One night he disappeared and was never found again, but people (often strangers) reported hearing the sound of pipes in a nearby wood for years afterwards. Because of the persistence of these reports, the wood became known as 'Pipers Wood' (now destroyed by the M1). A Roman road is suspected to have run through the wood.

In August 1933 the house of a Mr. Long in Bell Lane, Leicester, was plagued by 'spook water'. It poured mysteriously from the ceiling and no rational explanation could be found. Later on, in different incidents, water sprayed from a wall, cascaded down stairs, poured down the living room walls and a jet of water suddenly shot through the wallpaper and splashed onto the fire. Even detectives were called in, but to no avail. A jet of water suddenly emerging from a wall was witnessed by a photographer from the Leicester Evening Mail. The 'spook water' continued its antics for some months but gradually lessened its activities and then ceased altogether.

There is a fascinating tale concerning the appearance of the Devil in Barrow-on-Soar, near Loughborough, "within living memory"(3). The account is tied up with stories of local intrigue, but the essence of the appearance is that early one September morning (a Sunday) "a low trolley with wheels" was seen travelling at an "alarming speed". This trolley had "lights of an astonishing brilliance" fixed to it. The weird vehicle careered off down the village street. A week later, a "dark, sinister figure dressed all in black, riding a white horse" rode up to a farmer and a group of his men. The sinister figure "fixed the labourers with a cold stare" before riding off, laughing. Immediately after the rider there came the brilliantly lit trolley travelling down the street. The Devil? Perhaps - but it sounds to us more like a Man in Black.

On June 30th, 1753, a great fire began at Shepshed (7). 85 bays of buildings were consumed in the flames. The cause of the fire was never determined. Shortly after this fire had begun, another building suddenly erupted in flames, 150 yds from the main conflagration. As people helped their neighbours with the flames, they suddenly discovered that their own property was alight. Several animals were killed in this inexplicable outbreak of conflagrations, but no human lives were lost.

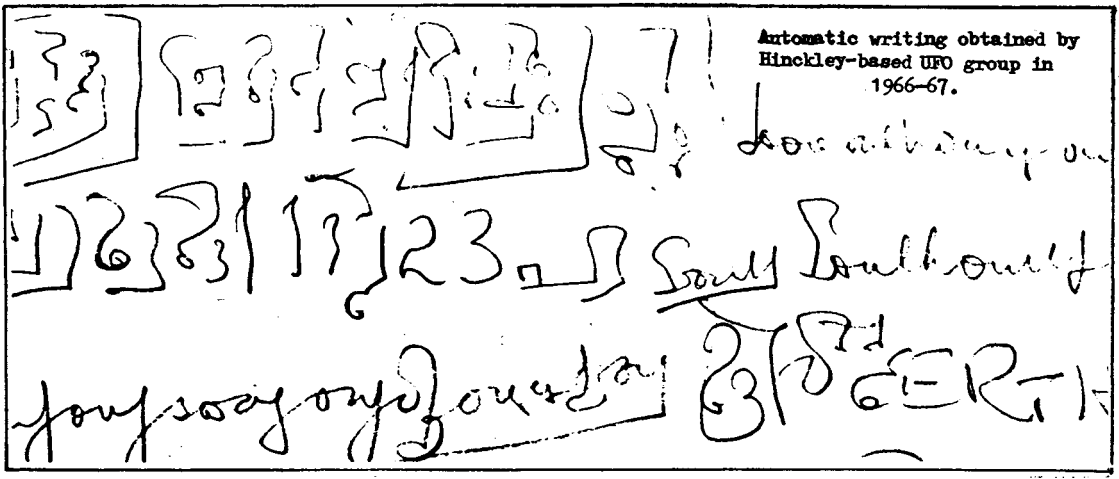
We have located records of the "Cannons of Barisal" type of phenomenon (volleys of inexplicable aerial reports) occurring near Hinckley in 1672 and Buckminster in the 1720s.

Presumed Standing Stone in an Ibstock lane, near the Church.

THE PSYCHIC LANDSCAPE.

The most shadowy and elusive aspects of any landscape are those which relate to the mental lives of its inhabitants. Dreams, prophecies, "otherworld" communications...they slip away, difficult to define and even more difficult to learn about in the first place. We can only record fragments that have come our way - the tip of a psychic iceberg.

During our research, we came across reports of Hinckley-based contactees who were active way back in 1966 (an important UFO-period in Leics. leading up to the incredible nationwide UFO activity of 1967). They employed automatic writing and trance mediums, according to the reports we discovered. The matter reached a climax when the group, accompanied by journalists, visited a site "near Huncote" on the instructions of "extra-terrestrials" in order to meet with the alien entities. It proved negative. We set out to trace this group, now dormant for 9 years. We finally located a member of the group who had become custodian of the writings and tape-recordings. We



Automatic writing obtained by Hinckley-based UFO group in 1966-67.

were not surprised to find that the site near Huncote (there is a markstone near this village embraced by the trunk of a tree) where the meeting with the extra-terrestrials should have taken place, turned out to be Croft Hill. We saw quite literally thousands of sheets of garbled English and pictographic-type automatic writing and listened to some of the dozens of tapes recorded at sittings with a London medium who was prepared to work with the group. (Other mediums chose not to assist the group which was also shunned by UFO groups: 1965-66 were early days for a psychic approach to UFOs). The ouija, automatic writing and their medium were the only ways the group ever contacted the 'ultraterrestrials', to use John Keel's term. An entity that frequently communicated with the group called himself JIRO - a ludicrous appelation of the sort that seems common to many contactee accounts. The number 23 was communicated repeatedly both in the writings and through the medium, but the members of the group could never understand why. We listened to one tape that consisted of the medium's transformed voice referring constantly to '23' and (phonetically) 'Leer' (Lear, Leire, Llyr?). It may be worth noting that the number 23 is considered a significant day-of-month date by some people, including NEWS-contributor William Porter.***** The entities referred to the concept of a supreme being as KHI - though at other times KHI seemed to be one of the communicating entities. Some of the entities claimed they had lived on Earth millenia ago, and that telepathy had preceded speech. The contactee group could never obtain clear information as to whether these entities were now extraterrestrials or not: it appears to us that though some members of the group were wont to assume that they were, the communications do not altogether support the idea. Typical of much contactee material, the entities warned of nuclear war. One entity claimed it came from LEHRA or LEHAR (Llyr, etc,again?). Sagittarius was also mentioned, and Saturn. On tape, the entities speaking through the medium displayed different characters and voices, all with heavy Asian accents. The communications contain references to the numbers 666 and 33 (sometimes 333) as well as 23. Apart from JIRO, other named entities included characters called MIL, SEPTA SIGS and GILIL.

In general, the prolific communications are difficult to understand and seem by turn cryptic, poetic, symbolic, cliché-ridden and just plain ridiculous. The contactee group were given the occasional small-scale piece of information that could be verified later, but information of a more major kind relating to meetings with the entities or the appearances of UFOs turned out to be hoaxes. Two other sites for meetings were given prior to the Croft Hill occasion. One of these sites was near the village of Wolvey and the other was Groby Pool, the largest sheet of naturally-occurring water in the county. Both these sites are exactly equidistant from Croft.

A member of the group we spoke to admitted that they never really grasped what was going on. Towards the end of 1966 the group split up. "We were going round and round in circles," one of them said, "and becoming overwrought, egged on by promises not fulfilled. We could see, I think, that it would have been dangerous to go on, someone might have

***** see THE NEWS 5/12 - Ed.

gone over the edge". And that seems a sensible point for us to leave it too.

The night before the battle of Bosworth, King Richard camped on the prehistoric earthworks known as 'The Bradshaws'. During the night, Richard had a vision while lying in his tent. "There appeared unto him divers fearful ghosts, running about him, not suffering him to take any rest, still crying revenge, which vision he related to his friends in the morning".(7). We also refer readers to NEWS 10/9.

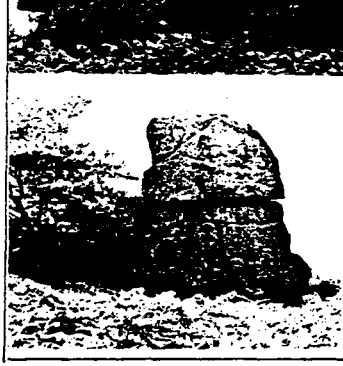
Late in 1704 there began what became known as the 'Cropston Miracle' (Cropston is on Charnwood). Various local clergymen of the day and other witnesses wrote up an account of the event and this in turn was preserved by Nichols (7). Briefly, the matter involved a young fellow called John Cook. He became inflicted with a strange illness that caused his face and body to become inflamed and swollen, and no part of his body was free from pain. By midsummer 1705, John had been in bed for 6 months and his pain and the contraction of his muscles were worse. He could not move and was expected to die. His father, no doubt with the best of intentions, had someone pull John's legs while he sat on the lad's knees. "Upon complaint of ...pain, they desisted from such afflicting experiments." Early in December, John heard a disembodied voice say: "John, John, John, arise, for thy limbs are restored unto thee, and walk". John wanted to attempt to rise but his father would not hear of it, and reproved him for his talk of voices. John Cook sank into a deep melancholy, but 12 days later the voice spoke to him again, this time louder than before. "This voice seemed to him as formed about a yard above his head, and was so loud, that he believes it might have been heard into the next room." And John Cook got up, with a crackling of his knees, and walked free, completely cured, to the amazement of relatives and neighbours. Coming right up to the present time we have records of two minor prophecies, a strange dream and more possible 'otherworld' communications.

The Leicester Mercury (July 16th, 1975) reported that a Barwell woman had had a premonition that there was going to be a tragedy involving someone in her family. She communicated her fears to relatives. Shortly afterwards, her daughter-in-law was killed and her son injured in an accident in Majorca.

Stoke's 'Evening Sentinel' reported in August 1975 that there was a prophecy that might relate to the current swarm of tremors. A Mr. Boulton said that his grandfather had prophesied 60 years ago that "the land in this area would shake and tremble, causing cracks to appear on the surface".

The Oaks Hanging Stone.

Quote from Potter (8).



At a very short distance from the spot on which this Quern was found, is the singular stone (see engraving) called Hanging Stone—a name which it has probably borne from very remote times; and I attach considerable importance, in the establishing of my proposition, to the proximity of these two ancient relics to each other.

Many have entertained a belief that the upper of these Hanging Stones was artificially raised upon the platform of the other. The geologist arrives at a different conclusion, and accounts for most of them by means purely natural. But whether the stones were placed in their present extraordinary position by nature or art, they must, in times when superstition held the minds of men under its sway, have been contemplated with extreme veneration. And it should be remembered, that wherever such apparently mysterious formations presented themselves, the Druids, ever alive to what might be auxiliary to their influence over the people, did not fail to turn them to good account. Even in these days, the stranger cannot behold the pile without feelings approaching to awe. No one riding up to the lower side of it, on a spirited horse, can fail to observe the emotion of the animal; and an old forester states, that Mr. Gisborne's Scotch cattle, on their first arrival, always gaze at it with wonder! "I take care," added he, "never to be near it after twilight has begun!"

These stones bear a striking resemblance to those in Wales and Derbyshire, which antiquaries have almost unanimously pronounced Cromlechs. "The word *Crom* signifies *crooked*, or *bending*, and *lech* a *flat stone*. Hence the belief that they were altars, or objects to which the antients bowed."* A pile more likely to be selected as an object of idolatrous veneration could not easily be found.†

But to return to the Oaks Hanging Stone.—A spot which is about the centre of a triangle formed by that stone, Kite Hill and the Tin Meadows, was, according to the information of an old Forest Keeper of Lord Hastings', always called "the Grove" before the inclosure. It may, in early times, have been a grove to some temple, or to the Hanging Stone Cromlech.

The woman who reported the close-up view of the UFO mentioned in NEWS 11/17 has subsequently become very upset about the sighting and has suffered dreams. In these she is apparently in a room on a spaceship, unnoticed by, or invisible to, the crew members. The room is filled with control panels. Then one of the crew turns and looks straight at her as if surprised. She feels herself go completely cold and awakes in a heavy sweat. Just her unusual experience playing on her mind - or something more?

Early in 1975, shortly after Leicester's UFO study group, LAPRO, had set up their organisation, they received 3 hoax phone calls, from apparently different callers each time. One caller gave a false number and the other two had LAPRO members going out to false addresses to witness UFOs. Not only were there no UFOs on view, but the phoney addresses were particularly odd. One was once valid but was now a demolished house, while the other was a gap in a row of houses where the house number LAPRO had been given would have existed if the gap had not been there...if you see what we mean. At the time LAPRO members were not aquainted with the Men in Black hoax syndrome outlined by Keel in his books.

We have heard rumours concerning another, current, Leics. contactee group who claim they can lay on telepathic contact with UFOs, causing them to appear. We are following up this information.

Markstone at crossroads near Warren Hills, Charnwood.

THE ANCIENT LANDSCAPE.

We have dealt in some detail with selected aspects of ancient Leics. for TLH (1). Although we will confine ourselves here to an impressionistic portrait of the ancient face of the area, no analysis of the landscape we are dealing with would be complete without some awareness of the work of ancient man. We are satisfied that it is through a study of ancient man's activities that we will approach a deeper understanding of apparently anomalous phenomena. The ancients appear to have had a greater knowledge than we possess of the interaction between the human psyche and its external environment, as well as the interaction between components of that external world. In fact, the concepts of an 'inner psyche' and an 'external world' are probably false and the cause of our difficulty in seeing what ancient man was up to. But more of this another time.

Leics. has been disgracefully neglected by archaeologists (though, on reflection this may be a blessing in disguise). The county is not noted for its ancient features but this is a false impression engendered by neglect. This situation has, however, made it all too easy for quarries, roadworks, property developments and the like to destroy ancient relics.

There are many earthworks in the county (most of them visually undramatic) but no one knows just how many because there has been no serious, complete survey made. Hoskins has commented (5) that very few known sites have been properly excavated and a considerable number of sites have never been recorded on O.S. maps. This was brought home to us when we were locating the position of two recumbent old stones near Queniborough, not far from Syston. Quite by accident, we stumbled on a large circular earthwork almost hidden from view by a ring of oaks alongside the old church at Queniborough. It had a central mound topped by two very tall Scots Pine trees and ringed by about 7 small yews. This feature, unmarked on the 1" map, had become a dumping ground for dead automobiles. Ah, Leicestershire...

Apart from numerous ancient wells and springs, the county possesses many moat features - we compiled a list of about 40 without any effort. Moats are to fare better than earthworks in the county because Ann Dornier and her Moated Site Research Group are compiling a gazeteer of them. Many Leics. farms and homesteads are old, and quite a large number are, or were, moated. A fair proportion of such places probably occupy ancient sites.

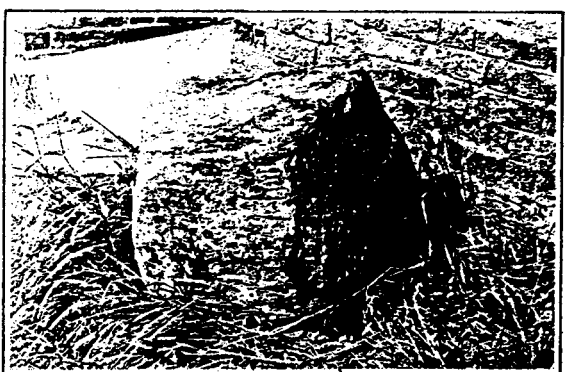
Leics has a number of ancient crosses within its boundaries, including a beautiful Saxon cross at Rothley which is often ignored in the literature. Also, there are old records claiming that Charnwood Forest once had "many crosses" standing on it. The significance of old

crosses is that they probably mark points of former importance, in some cases perhaps replacing or using a standing stone. This would seem to be the case, for example, at Ragdale. Nichols described the cross in the churchyard there as a "curious and perfect old cross, the shaft of which is one solid stone". Unusual ancient features were the turf crosses that existed at certain places on Charnwood. These features, formed by cutting or raising the earth, were renewed annually. They are reminiscent of the old turf mazes around the country. A turf cross existed on Nettle Hill near Nanpantan and 3 turf crosses were at the meeting point of the parishes of Shepshed, Markfield and Whitwick.

Leics. is extraordinarily rich in really ancient churches, many of them probably on sites of former, pagan sanctity.

The county contains some earthworked hills, and at least 3 hills specifically named as beacon hills. We suspect Leics. to have supported a tree-lore survival up until fairly recent times.

The county is not particularly rich in old stones but, nevertheless, possesses more than is generally realised. It is frequently assumed that the only standing stone in the county is the Humber Stone, as that alone is marked on the 1" map. This assumption is incorrect, and through persistent research and fieldwork we have located other standing stones and mark stones, or their sites. A sketch map accompanies this text, indicating the distribution of old stones in the county. Obviously, there may be a few more substantial stones to be rediscovered, and there certainly must be many markstones still to be identified. While we continue fieldwork on this, the map can give an idea of the general distribution of stones. The stones numbered on the map are a cross-section of extant and former ones we have selected for the following summary:

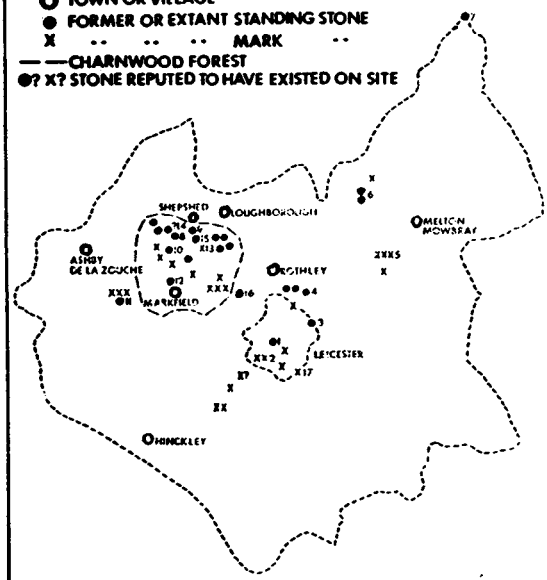


Markstone near the village green, Grimston.

1. St. John's Stone - originally about 7 feet tall, it stood in an "amphitheatre-shaped hollow" not far from Abbey Park in Leicester. Fairy lore was attached to it and children danced around it on June 24th. It is supposed to have shared a midsummer sunrise alignment with the Humber Stone (2) perpetuated in folklore as a tunnel. The stone is no longer extant.
2. Braunstone complex - a flat stone by the church door has a pointed end oriented fractionally north of East. A large markstone is situated on a nearby bridle path. Some other decidedly unusual and distinctive stones are in a copse nearby. Braunstone is now a suburb of Leicester and the church once had a curious hay-strewing ceremony.
3. Humber Stone - originally about 10 feet tall, pentagonal with its north face "exactly oriented". It is said to have been dropped by one of the old gods. Lore attached to it relates to fairies and the supernatural movement of the stone. Only fragments of it now remain, near the village of Humberstone.
4. Moody Bush Stone - pentagonal, with axes precisely related to compass points. 4 feet high, it stands in a field near Syston, 6 miles NE of Leicester. Related to local lore.
5. The Bartholomews - a field from which hay was brought for the hay-strewing ceremony at the church in nearby Ashby Folville. This was discontinued in the 1890s. The hay was taken from a part of the field marked out by 3 stones set in a triangular configuration. We are still researching the current existence of these stones. (The purpose behind hay-strewing ceremonies has never been determined but, as they date from the remotest antiquity, they probably relate to the sites of the churches with which they are connected.)
6. Grimston - a stone stands on the village green next to a large tree. We traced the record of another, larger stone in a nearby field. This stone was said to have fallen off a star. It had been pulled up 20 years ago and thrown into a pond. We were anxious to locate this stone and take a sample for analysis to see if it was meteoric but unfortunately the pond had been filled in and the stone was beyond recall. There is also a mark stone on a road approaching the village green.
7. Star stone - this standing stone existed near the Three Shires Bush where the counties of Leics., Notts., and Lincs. meet. The Three Shires Bush is now a curiously silent, dying copse and the tree on the actual point where the

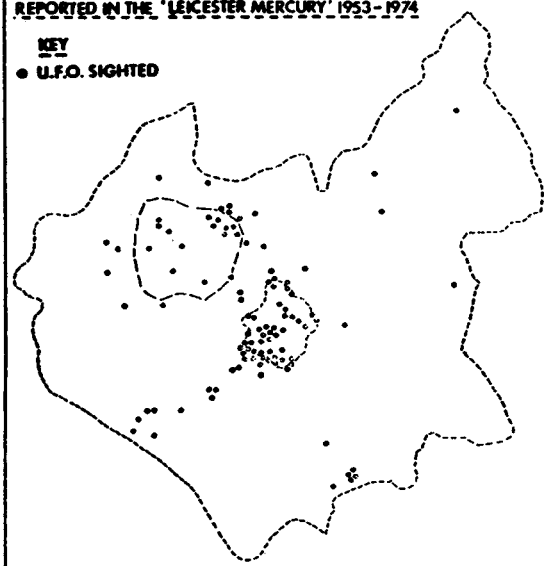
SKETCH MAP INDICATING DISTRIBUTION OF KNOWN OLD STONES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

KEY
O TOWN OR VILLAGE
● FORMER OR EXTANT STANDING STONE
X .. .. .. MARK ..
——CHARNWOOD FOREST
●? X? STONE REPUTED TO HAVE EXISTED ON SITE



SKETCH MAP INDICATING DISTRIBUTION OF U.F.O. SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN THE 'LEICESTER MERCURY' 1953-1974

KEY
● U.F.O. SIGHTED



Note the two trends follow similar distributions Closer analysis gives closer correlation. Latest data also conforms to this pattern. Husbands Bosworth seems as prone to UFOs as it is to seismic and meteorological events. We have not plotted the UFO phenomena seen over Charnwood during the 1957 earthquake.

counties meet is now an ailing oak tree planted in the 1960s to replace an earlier oak. Local natives claim that the stone is no longer extant. The original existence of the bush and stone quietly suggests that geomancy may have been involved in the laying out of the old county boundaries in England. Nichols speculated that the Star stone got its name because of a cross carved on it, a cross with a rather decorative appearance. We think the star reference might be more complex than this.

8. The Oaks Hanging Stone - see insert.*

9. The Hangman's stone - also near the Oaks, on Charnwood. The standing stone is situated very close to an oak tree.

10. Forest Rock complex - on Charnwood, near Colville. The stump of a standing stone remains near a mump of white quartz. There are other curious (but subtle) features in the vicinity (1). A mark stone stands on the crossroads beneath Warren Hills where the complex is situated. Someone of the calibre of Professor Thom ought to visit this site.

11. Ibstock - 3 mark stones and one standing stone (or uncommonly large mark stone) are in an old, narrow lane in this village, near to the church.

12. Markfield - an inscribed standing stone stood in a field near this village up until last century. 19th century writers speculated that this stone fell on the line of a lost Roman road that connected a number of ancient sites. Ley hunters awake!

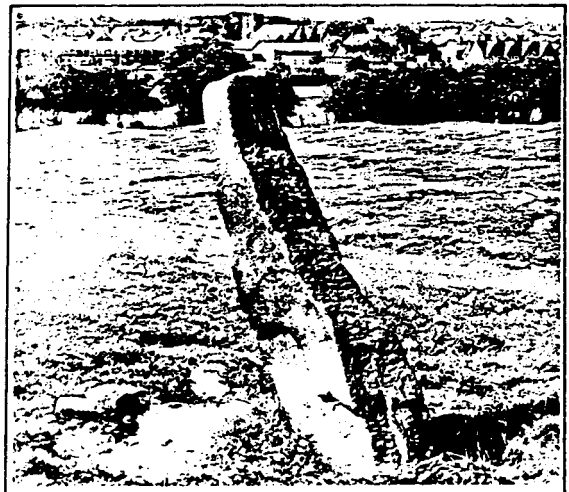
13. Stoney stumps - on Charnwood, near Charley Wood. Nichols drew attention to the fact that this wood was formerly known as Chalhenge Wood and he considered the 'henge' ending significant in view of the fact that certain scholars of his day believed that a 'Druidical Temple' existed somewhere near the spot known as Stoney Stumps and that Chalhenge Wood was a grove belonging to it (It is our suspicion that some trees and tree-groupings in Leics. still tell handed down tales of long ago).

14. Strawberry Hill - Potter (8) claimed that a 'Druidical' stone shaped like an augural seat existed on this hill on Charnwood, and was similar to one other stone in Derbyshire. There are in fact two Strawberry Hills on Charnwood, quite close to each other, and we have so far drawn a blank in trying to locate the stone.

15. Reynstones - these stones are recorded as having stood on the Shepshed parish boundary between the Conston cross and the Tin Meadow.

16. Anstey stone - a deliberately leaning stone about 5 ft long. It is a ley hunter's dream as it visually aligns

* see back to page 15 - Ed.



Anstey Stone. Note the Church and hilltop copse aligned in the background. The hill is "Old John" on Charnwood. (Hope this comes out clear enough - Ed.)

with the old church in Anstey and a hilltop copse. Further work shows that the stone is on an 8-point map alignment. We must also recall Mrs Berger's humanoid sighting near Anstey.

17. South Wigston - a mark stone here gives a good illustration of how the antiquity of such stones could have come about. When a house was put up alongside this stone, many years ago, a niche was formed in the wall by the builders so that the stone could remain undisturbed. The part of the stone that stood proud of the wall was painted black. Even a road sign was erected flush against the stone without affecting it. (We have noticed that the Leics. authorities have a penchant for placing road and telegraph poles against mark stones!) The building has now been demolished to make way for a dual carriageway and the whole stone is revealed surrounded by fragments of masonry. We imagine the stone will also have gone since we photographed it. South Wigston has been a key area for UFO sightings according to our research.

So there we have a brief account of just some of the old stones of Leics. The lore and orientations relating to some of them suggests to us the remains of an astronomical network - at least as one of their functions. We feel it is important that all these stones, or their former positions, need to be identified before all trace of them disappears. Without this data, no serious ley hunting can be done in the county, nor can meaningful correlations be made in other respects.

We have not studied the NE Staffs. region to any great extent with regard to ancient features, but we do notice a couple of interesting items.

The large village of Stone is situated in the Trent valley only a few miles from the heart of the Stoke tremor area. It is said to have got its name from a cairn of stones that once existed locally. Some earthworks are still extant in the vicinity. John Michell has remarked (6) on a circle that can be struck from Whiteleaved Oak in the Malverns with a radius of 504 furlongs so that its circumference passes through Llantwit Major, Glastonbury, Stonehenge and Goring-on-Thames, where an ancient temple once existed. When we continued this circle on the map it passed extremely close to Ibstock and on round through Stone. We note with interest the 'mystery flares' near Llantwit Major earlier this year, reported by F W Holliday in NEWS 9. Holliday links Llantwit Major with a ley: all well and good, but we would also point out its relationship via this Whiteleaved Oak circle with Stone which is near to the areas where seismic and UFO activity was occurring at approximately the same time as the Welsh 'flares' and 'fireballs'. Researchers ignore such correlations at their peril.

Very close to where the UFO landed near Leek (NEWS 11/7) is a somewhat weird range of hills known as the Roaches. Here, on midsummer's evening, is said to occur "a remarkable phenomenon" (4) involving a "double sunset". The sun appears to set only to slide into view again and appear to set once more. Clearly, the precise backsight is necessary to witness this, and our sources did not say where the viewpoint was. On June 21st we arrived at the Roaches, hoping to obtain a sequence of photographs of the event. The sun blazed away all midsummer day (as it has most days this furnace-like summer) and we trusted that local people would give us further information. However, extensive local enquiries failed to reveal anyone who knew anything at all about the phenomenon! Such is the way that knowledge becomes lost.

SHUGBOROUGH.

Shugborough Hall is set in beautiful grounds in the Trent valley, not far from Stone. The research of Henry Lincoln has linked aspects of Shugborough with Rennes-le-Chateau in southern France. The mysteries involved are awesome and far-reaching. We had originally intended to go into this matter at some length in this article but that has proved imposs-

ible as we have had to include the unexpected data on recent tremors and meteorological events in Staffs. and Leics. We hope it may be possible to remedy this shortcoming at a future date.

*** *** *** *** *** ***

Parts 1 and 2 of this study contain generous extracts of Leicestershire material that we are compiling for a work that is currently in progress. We will be seeking to link this data with observations that we hope will contribute in a small way to the growing body of understanding concerning the complex interrelationships between the cosmos, Earth and the human mind. We are putting together some speculations in this direction in an essay called THE THOR FACTOR, which may appear in a future issue of the NEWS if circumstances allow. If not, our ideas, correlations and speculations will be put forward for scrutiny in our work-in-progress - should it ever see the light of day!

A number of people have helped us at various times by providing information, sharing the fieldwork, and so on. We take this opportunity to thank them. They include, in no special order: Harry Woolman; the Rev. Shepherd and his family; Shirley Torrens; Graham Crowley; Ann Williams; 'Ned'; Dave Potts; David Morris; Dennis Fisher; Mr. Warwick, and Jay. We are also grateful to our editor for aiding and abetting us.

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Markstone by a bridle path in Newtown Linford, Charnwood. Two large stones stand by the walls of the village pub near here. No one knows their origin.

DELUGE AT HAMPSTEAD cont...

of August saw the discovery of A0621 minus 0, -the brightest x-ray star ever observed". In the days preceeding the Hampstead Washout its brightness increased from 1,000 units, according to Prof Kenneth Pounds (Leicester U). "But now it has reached an astonishing 35,000 units - and it is still increasing". The Prof broke this news to the first European Conference on Astronomy, where else but at Leicester University, and observatories across the world were immediately mobilised to keep watch on this "most exciting discovery ever made in the field of astronomy." (Sunday Times 17 Aug 75.) Fort would be the first to chuckle at the way nature keeps pitching these surprises, particularly, it seems, when experts in that speciality are in a huddle somewhere.

And then there's this 'coincidence' of the mystery tremor' that rattled a house in Kensington (surely not the one with the snake) the day after the Hampstead soaking (15th Aug) as mentioned by Paul & Andy on page 9 of this issue.

...AND YET MORE RAIN.

As if to make a point, the heavens opened over southern England once more, exactly a month later, on Sept 14. Two people died and three were missing as gales whipped up high seas all along the south coast. A 'whirlwind' struck Barnham, a village in Sussex, leaving an estimated £75,000 worth of damage. The wind rose to "a roaring" and carried glass from shattered windows. Southampton recorded its wettest day this century. (Daily Mirror, 15 Sept 75).

BIRKDALE, SOUTHPORT, LANCS.

One of the most interesting we knew of but had nothing in the files on, was the activity of a poltergeist during demolition work on the Palace Hotel, Birkdale. Recently, Peter Rogerson sent us his clippings on the case and we record it here.

In April 1969, Jos Smith led his 10-man team of demolishers into the 112-year-old hotel. They had a contract and intended to sleep in the building until the job was done. After about a month they were all sufficiently frightened to move out into lodgings and only work in the daylight. "I don't blame them," said Jos. "Things started to happen soon after we moved in. First of all we were awakened by strange noises in the night. Then the lift would suddenly set off on its own."

About mid April, Jos ordered all the power to the building and the lift to be cut off - but the lift still glided from floor to floor with its gates opening and closing, and its indicator lights flashing. Electricity Board spokesmen were quoted that the building was isolated - not an amp was going into the place. The men removed the emergency winding handle, but still it moved. Workman Fred Wooley said: "Nine of us came back one night and as we entered the foyer the lift doors slammed shut and it shot up to the second floor." The Paralab directory for 1969 has a summary of the case and they mention an "independant witness" a Mrs K Templeton, who had gone into the 1000 room hotel looking for antique mirrors. She said: "While I was talking to the workmen, the lift suddenly began to go up. There wasn't any sound from it - it was very eerie. It just glided up about 7ft almost to the next floor and stopped. I ran all the way up to the winding room with one of the workmen, but there was just no way it could have been moved mechanically. The brake was still on."

A BBC programme ran a report showing a dog that was happy on all floors except the second one - indeed the second floor seems to be the focus of the activity.

The Paralab go on to mention accounts we don't have. That a decision was made to cut the cables, but the lift did not fall. So they cut through the main shafts, to no avail. It was as perverse in its obstinacy as it was in its previous wilful mobility. It did not fall until it had been continually struck with sledge-hammers for 25 minutes, and then it plunged down the shaft to bury itself 4ft into the cellar. This behaviour was naturally found puzzling and "unbelievable" by those present.

There is an epilogue of sorts. In the last week of May 69 the local papers report "hundreds of pounds worth of damage" to the building. Why worry, you ask? Well, for example 200 doors were stacked ready for selling, and during the night they were thrown over a balcony and smashed. Windows were broken, saleable iron balustrades wrecked, and fires started. All this was blamed on vandals "from the Liverpool area" - but there are no reports of the vandalism being witnessed; just discovered next morning. We are suspicious. On what grounds, we would like to ask in a mood of inquiry that would have had old Fodor beaming with approval, is the distinction made between the vandalism of corporeal and psychic delinquents? Could it be that broken windows and smashed doors are not so 'obviously' unusual as a lift with a mind of its own? A case worthy of further investigation, wethinks. (Daily Mail, Daily Mirror, 7 May 69. Manchester Evening News, 29 May 1969. Cr: Peter Rogerson.)

WOOLTON, LIVERPOOL, LANCS.

A building used as an ambulance training centre in Quarry St, Woolton, has long been reputed to be haunted, mainly by a spectre the previous occupants (before 1967 it belonged to the police) called 'The Sarge'. In the first week of Oct 1974, ambulance trainees complained of breaking windows, phantom footsteps, and doors that unlocked themselves - similar events were reported by the policemen before 1967.

One retired rozzer, Jack Elsworth, 75, who was born in the place, remembered tales told to him by his father, who was station sergeant

there near the end of the last century. Jack's dad had helped lay out a dead man under a tarpaulin in a back room, and then locked the door. The next day, the corpse was found lowered to the floor, still completely covered. On another occasion "a horse was uncoupled from the shafts of a cart outside the station, when no human was in sight." And, says Jack, a Union Jack vanished from high on the station flagpole, to be found later in St Helens.

After this news came to light, all night vigils by both the "extrasensory perception class" of the Childwall Institute, and the Merseyside Parapsychotic (?) Society failed to raise even a phantom footfall. (Liverpool Echo, 8 & 23 Oct 74. Cr: Peter Rogerson.)

SEXY GHOSTS.

We seem to have accumulated a few stories of randy wraiths - though none of those that follow are a match for the salacious shade of Sir William Langhorne. In life he is said to so desperately want an heir, that he bedded most of the women for 20 miles around. As good an excuse as any, we suppose. But after his death this obsession was said to still drive him to try any female who spent the night at Charlton House, Greenwich - and doubtless the surprise appearance of buns in ovens was blamed on him too. (Kentish Independent, 27 June 74. Cr: Steve Moore.)

WANDSWORTH, LONDON.

Pamela Parvey, husband and 3 kids moved out of their council flat because they had just had a nightmare year with their polt, in Earlsfield Road. Amongst the usual tricks of flashing the lights on and off, it had pushed her along their passageway, dragged bedclothes from her shoulders "with tremendous force", and trapped her feet in bed in a paralysing grip. While she cooked, it cuddled her waist, and she, thinking her husband was getting affectionate, didn't realise for a while that it was a ghostly groper. The final straw came when she was sitting in the living room and the head and shoulders of an elderly man with a beard appeared out of the wall. A suitcase "a few feet away began to rise in the air and then crashed to the ground just missing me." (News of the World, 29 April 74.)

LEWISHAM, LONDON.

Anyone who spends the night in the guestroom of Graham Smithies in George Lane, Lewisham, is sure of getting a surprise room service. Graham and his wife appear to share the house with a discerning ghost. A "comely guest" sleeping alone, felt, quite distinctly, a kiss planted on her cheeks. A couple in that room were quite far apart, when the girl felt a warm hand clasp hers. When she realised the hand was not her husband's, who had his back to her, she ran from the room screaming. When another couple slept there, the woman had a very comfortable night while the husband felt icily cold. Graham said: "Mainly men complain that they were unable to get warm in the room, no matter how many covers they put on the bed." (News of the World, 6 May 74.)

LEWES, SUSSEX.

Teresa Dartnell and Gary English stepped into the deserted All Saint's Church Hall for their late-night farewell kiss - it turned into a nightmare. Teresa said: " We heard eerie footsteps. A ghastly cold, clammy feeling came over us and rooted us to the spot as if we were being held down. I grabbed a drum-stand (Gary's band had played there earlier) and used it as a crucifix and we ran out...but Gary went back to switch the lights off. He was thrown out through the swing doors with his feet right off the ground." Gary said: "When we drove off in my van I felt as if I was being strangled." Also mentioned is that Teresa's watch heated up so that she bore a burn on her wrist. What could it be do you think? Guilt about kissing in a church hall? These two kids certainly seem of a religious turn, talking about sleeping with their crucifixes etc. Certainly all the clichés are here - but their fear was very real. They fled to the nearest police station and convinced 6 policemen to search the place. Needless to say, they found nothing. (Sunday Mirror, 25 Aug 74. Cr: Robert Forrest.)

WORKSOP, NOTTS.

Pretty Beryl Gladwin doesn't get much sleep. Between 4 and 6am, three mornings a week, she is visited by a ghost wearing miner's boots. Her life is made such a misery that her parents are applying for a new home for themselves and their seven children. Beryl, 18, tried sleeping in with her parents, but the amorous spook was not deterred. "First it tugs at the bedclothes and then I feel it get next to me in the bed. It holds my hand and starts kissing me and biting my neck. The haunting began about the end of Feb this year and after a couple of frightening weeks, they called in a clairvoyant, Simon Alexander.

Mr Alexander kept a vigil at one of the regular trysting times, and felt a malevolent presence outside the room. "It tried to make me leave by making me feel ill. I had to fight hard to stay. Then it materialised in the room. It was trying to dodge me and was difficult to get into focus. I could see pit boots clearly, and miner's baggy herringbone trousers held up by a wide belt with a big buckle. It tried to get in with Beryl and kiss her. She was trembling with fear."

He went on: "I believe it's the ghost of a miner called Dexter who used to live in the house. He had 12 children of his own, and I'm certain he will make love to Beryl unless something is done soon." The Gladwins, as seems to be a pattern in council-house hauntings, had only moved into the house six months previously. The Church seems unhurried about who gets laid first. The Vicar of Worksop, conducting his own investigation, said an exorcism might be a possibility.

Sometime after the above story appeared in the nation's Sunday papers, the People carried a little note tucked away where few would see it. It read: " Mr George Dexter, of 31 Windmill Lane Worksop, states that the story we published on March 9 headed 'The Ghost that left Love Bites' was a slur on his dead brother. There was no such intention and we are sorry if the report caused embarassment to the Dexter family." You gotta laugh! (News of the World, Sunday Mirror, Sunday People, 9 Mar 75; Sunday People 11 May 75. Cr: Nigel Watson.)

ACCIDENT GROUPINGS.

It seems that no sooner had we typed up our notes on the strange series of public coach crashes (page 20 last issue) than more news of a similar nature came in. If this was a vein of the darkest sort of synchronicity, then it was clear it had not yet played out.

A woman was killed at Faversham, Kent, when a coach crashed on 17 July (Sunday Mirror, 17 Aug 75.) ** 40 tourists, some of them British, were injured when a London coach skidded off the autobahn near Bonn on 19 July (Sunday Mirror 20 July 75). ** about the same time, a coach carrying 36 passengers skidded and crashed through a stone parapet, its front wheels coming to rest over a 12ft drop. This happened at the bridge over the Swale in the Yorkshire village of Topcliffe, not far from the similar, but fatal, Hebden Bridge disaster in May (see last issue), (Sunday Mirror, 20 July 75). ** 5 people died and 42 were injured when a coach hit a motorway embankment and overturned on the M6 between Sandbach and Holmes Chapel in Cheshire, while it was trying to avoid a collision between three cars in the torrential rain. (Sunday Mirror, 17 Aug 75). ** one man was killed and several people were injured when at least six coaches and six cars were involved in four seperate accidents in southern England late on Sept 13. (Sunday Mirror, 14 Sept 75). ** on radio news we heard that on the evening of 22 Sept, a coach crashed near Bournemouth, injuring three ladies. There was nothing in the papers the next day.

Some time ago, Robert Forrest, who is something of a coincidence freak, sent us a heap of accidents involving cars plunging off the road into water in Feb & March last year. ** On the 27th Feb the accident in which Ronald Milhench, the man who forged Prime Minister Wilson's signature in a land deal, and his wife were taken into the waters of a lake at Chasewater, Staffs, occurred. Mrs Milhench drowned. (Daily Mirror, 15 Mar 74.) ** On the 3rd March, Ray Everett scrambled out of his Volkswagen as it sank slowly into a canal in Thorne, Yorks. (Daily Mirror, 4 Mar 74.) ** Dom Gillanders was trapped in his car after driving into a canal in Ormerod Rd, Burnley, on the 9th. He was rescued eventually. (Sunday Mirror, 10 Mar 74.) ** Bill Shirran, Coventry's ex-director of Parks, was found dead in his car at the bottom of a lake during a police investigation of some council departments. (Daily Mirror, 21 Mar 74.)

About the only thing that has any consistancy here is that something - anything - is repeated. It could be any of the factors involved - but whatever it is, it pops up in mini-serieses of events. We do not completely understand the relationships between single things, let alone the complexities of groups of things. Even Jung was groping (though far ahead of many of us) in his attempts to understand those relationships which seem to hint at some kind of 'organisation' behind things (we use the word here in its biological sense). His thesis on synchronicity was a true scientific gesture, put forward as a tentative hypothesis. Fort too had a feeling for the directions of future studies when he wrote: "I am not so much interested in things, as in the relationships between things." Some people see in strange repetitions the intervention of an external agency. On the other hand Jung has shown that the tendency to, and therefore expressions of, order (archetypes) are as natural to entities as the tendency toward wholeness in , say, cellular division. Fort again: "When it's railroad time, railroads will be invented." And that's not just a clever remark. Any examination of patent records will bear out the fact that there are independent filings all over the world of key in-

ventions at similar times - as if something were in the air and found expression simultaneously.

It seems awfully flimsy, but sometimes we have only our suspicions to go upon. As a species, man is heavily committed to ego - any suggestion that we are merely puppets working out an alien will brings out all the classic phobias. If what we are talking about is the local expression of a 'Grand Design' (like that of which an archetype is an expression, an ultimate unknowable) then we are no further out of this quagmire of paradoxes, the phenomenal universe. One sign of hope is the growing acceptance (or understanding) of a form of God which is both unspeakably ancient and spanking new (new in the sense of rediscovered) - a God that is an ageless organism of totality, not the 'Deus Ex Machina' who seemed a bad-tempered old crank. If there is a God, and it is sentient, then it would be of an order of sentience we could not begin to recognise. Being beyond (encompassing) all duality, it would have no need of time. Patterns, like most of our concepts, are inextricably bound up with our ideas of and need for time, even the absence of time (vide, synchronicity.) The phenomenal universe is permeated with causal events, the logical extension of which is a paradoxical First Cause! In true fashion, the only alternative is seen as 'Chance'. And yet - we'd like to ask, are not both Chance and an (external, causal) God both ways of sidestepping the most interesting philosophical issue we'll see in many years - and that is that there is some aspect of Man that can directly affect, shape, create the universe around him. Indeed many recent studies, not just ours, are hinting that the distinctions between internal/subjective/mind and external/objective/universe are in some cases nonexistent. Further - the ontological extension of this is that 'God' is a state whereby this duality is perpetually reconciled for every sentient and nonsentient thing that exists.

All this may be true or not. As long as there is some element of doubt, let us be content not saying such a thing is impossible. For our present purposes, it is simply enough to look at the data, and say, yes! here is a pattern which runs through several events - phenomenally this connects them as much as a leaf, a dress and a flame, if each were green.

Every pool we look into reflects the same sun, some more differently than others. What then is going on in our next tale? On 25 July this year, Bob Finnegan, crossing the Falls Rd, in troubled Belfast, became a concrete example of the indomitable spirit of the ordinary people there. He bounced off the bonnet of a car. He got to his feet and another car hurled him to the opposite pavement. As bystanders gathered round the bewildered Bob to help him, a van ploughed through the crowd flattening Bob and two others. Then behind that came yet another car and for the fourth time in rapid succession Bob was flung to the ground. For all that, we are happy to say that he is recovering well in hospital. (Daily Mirror, 26 July 75. Cr: Steve Moore.)

Let us get ghoulish for a moment and consider a few coincidences involving death - though we'll reserve full fiendishness for next issue. William Rose was found battered to death in a house he owned in Willesden, London. Police called on his wife at another of their houses about two miles away to inform her of the tragedy, only to find that she too had been battered to death, but amidst signs of robbery, within half an hour of her husband. Faced with such curious circumstances the police concocted a story: a thief had threatened Mr Rose to get a safe combination and killed him when he refused to tell; the killer then went to the other house, extracted the combination from Mrs Rose, and killed her after the robbery. Neat, isn't it? Except that it doesn't really stand up to the circumstances and in itself leaves too many questions unanswered. Whatever - Det Super John Donald said: "I've never seen such injuries. They must have been done by a maniac." (Sunday Mirror, 9 June 74.)

On 28 Jan, Charles Davies died at 3am in his sister's house in Leicester. (This is turning out to be a real Leics. issue in every way.) The sister phoned his home in Leeds to inform them, and she was told in turn that Charles's wife had also died that day - at 3am. (Leicester Mercury, 6 Feb 75. Cr: Dave Potts.) And three of the Bassey-Fisher brothers, Frederick, James and Ronald, all farmers in Norfolk, died within five days of each other - two within eight hours on the same day. (Eastern Daily Mail, 11 April 75. Cr: RTA Hill.)

What does it matter that some of our stories are full of the commonplace? The truly universal mysteries are all the more mysterious for their universal presence in all things. Isn't that what thousands of years of mysticism has been telling whoever will listen? In this sense, THE NEWS is a journal of everyday cosmology. Perhaps we <u>are</u> moved, with or without our conscious will or knowledge, moved like the trees to flower at a certain time. And who is there to say that these dances do not well up, even in part, from those areas of the mind we know least about?

There can be few stories as enigmatic as the following. Erskine Lawrence Ebbin was knocked off his moped by a taxi and killed in Hamilton, Bermuda. It was the same taxi with the same driver, carrying the same passenger, that killed his brother Neville in July the previous year. Both brothers were 17 when they died, and had been riding the same moped in the same street. Ah! but history never quite repeats itself - the time of both accidents differed by (only) 50 minutes. (Liverpool Echo, Scunthorpe Evening Telegraph, 21 July 75. Cr: Ann Williams & Nigel Watson. Buenos Aires Herald, 22 July 75. Cr: Jean Bastide.)

SAVING FACE.

In January this year, Teresa Haro, working in a shop in Los Angeles, had a lucky escape.

A gunman fired a shot in her face from close range. The bullet hit Mrs Haro above the nose, bounced off her skull, skidded under her skin and emerged above her forehead. Detective Joe Beiro said he'd never seen anything like it. (The Sun, 20 Jan 75.)

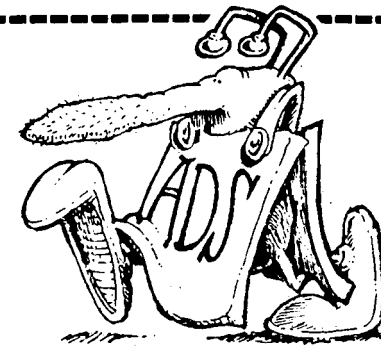
We oughtn't to be surprised that in this violent age such a freak occurrence should be repeated. We already had in our files a more extreme version. Frankie Lane, a young British soldier serving in Belfast, was hit by a sniper's bullet. It went up his nose, round his skull (presumably via the bony ridge below the eye), and out of his ear. (The Sun, 15 Oct 74).

And we picked up a less bizarre story during our recent USA sojourn. Patrolman Ted Carlton (see photo, this page) was chasing two escaped convicts in Oklahoma City, Okla., when a bullet smashed through his car windscreen, loosing enough energy so that it could be finally stopped by the thin metal frames of his specs - his only injury a gashed cheek. (National Enquirer, 26 Aug 75. Cr: Ruth Barrowcliff.)

FALLING BABIES.

Among other trends for July, we have three stories of falling babies - one was injured on 16th in Cavendish St, Ramsgate (London Evening News,17 July 75) - one fell unharmed on 25th at Breedon-on-the-Hill, near Derby (Daily Mirror, 26 July 75) - one was killed on 28th in Eastern Rd, Brighton (London Evening News, 28 July 75). Cr the lot to Steve Moore.

For want of somewhere to put it, here is a tale of two climbers. Ian Cochrane, savouring the heights of the Cairngorms, fell 300ft down during an avalanche and survived with minor injuries. (Daily Mirror, 24 Dec 73.) Less than a month later, David Morris, an experienced Alpine climber, died at Little Bispham, Lancs, after falling only 10ft - down stairs. (Daily Mirror, 19 Jan 74.) Cr both to Robert Forrest. One man's fall is another man's fatality.



THE NEWS is available from the following bookshops, who also keep a wide range of titles on Fortean and associated topics.

ANDROMEDA BOOK Co Ltd.
57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ.

THE ATLANTIS BOOKSHOP.
49a Museum St, London WC1A 1LY.

COMPENDIUM BOOKS.
240 Camden High St, London NW1.

DARK THEY WERE & GOLDEN EYED.
10 Berwick St, London W1V 3RG.

TEMPS FUTURS.
3 rue Perronet, 75007 Paris, France.

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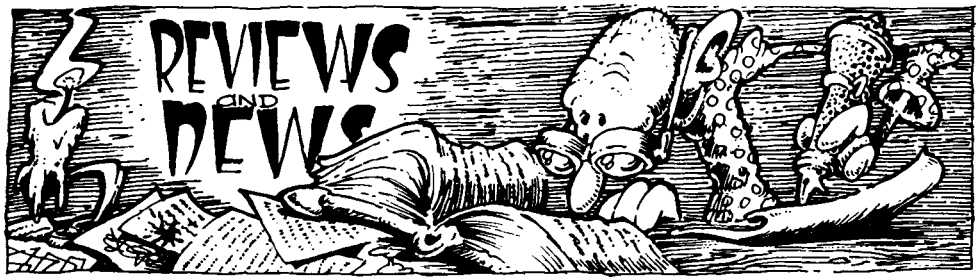
BUFORA announce their London lecture programme for 1975/76, held at Kensington Central Library, London W8.

* UFOLOGY AS FRINGE SCIENCE - Dr Ivor Grattan-Guinness. Sat 4 Oct 75, 7pm.
* UFO SCENE IN BELGIUM & THE ESC - Ruby de Groote (Belgium). Sat 1 Nov 75, 7pm.
* BUFORA AGM, FILM & LECTURE: UFO ACTIVITY IN SCOTLAND - Stuart Campbell. Sat 6 Dec 75, 7pm.
* UFOs AND THE PRESS - Richard Beet. Sat 3 Jan 1976 , 7pm.
* RESEARCH EVENING, short papers. Sat 7 Feb 76 7pm.
* MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, PARLIAMENT & UFOs - Lionel Beer. Sat 6 March 76, 7pm.
* EXTRATERRESTRIAL PROBABILITIES - Anthony R Martin. Sat 3 April 76, 7pm.

For further details write: The Hon Sec, BUFORA. 6 Cairn Ave, London W5. For details of BUFORA enclose a 9 x 4½" SAE.

Subscribers to THE NEWS will note that we are trying an experiment in addressing our envelopes which, it is hoped, will make us more efficient (joke) and in the long run SAVE MONEY. By combining the label with an acknowledgement slip and renewal form in this way, it will save us much time and effort previously spent with several bits of paper. Many people pointed out that they had thrown their envelopes away before realising the label told them when their sub expired. This way, you'll have a record and can return it with your renewal. Ed.



THE UNIDENTIFIED by Jerome Clark & Loren Coleman. Warner Paperback Library; $1.50.; 272pp; bibliog & index; ISBN 0.446.78735.3.

Every so often, a book comes along that impresses me so much that I urge my friends to buy, or at least read it. This is such a one. It deals with a very complicated problem, not in depth, but across its spectrum, being one of those valuable resumés of current research thought that re-examines how we reached the present position. The book's subtitle is 'Notes toward solving the UFO mystery' and in it we find a restating of the central issues of the mystery, working them through to the present with unusual and new material, often from the authors's own investigations.

They begin by listening to a source that provided much embarassment to the UFO 'Nuts & Bolts' cause. This was the tendancy of Contactees (those who believed themselves contacted by other intelligences) to deliver surprising accounts of that contact, involving ambiguous evidence; baffling behaviour of the 'aliens', often childish or with sexual overtones; anti-materialistic philosophies couched in quasi-religious or simplistic terms; and sometimes patently absurd details, like the names of the entities and their home-planet. This 'Contactee Syndrome' extended to their subsequent behaviour - forming cultish groups, etc. Indeed this is such a strong pattern of behaviour that one wonders why it was never examined before. Perhaps because it fitted in quite explicitly to the known varieties of mystical and shamanistic experience, in its morphology. The authors note, for example the upsurge in paranormal phenomena that often occurs around a contactee or close witness of UFO events, and show cases which are indistinguishable from spiritualist sittings and religious visions.

Taking as a datum the visionary nature of a meeting with an 'entity', Clark & Coleman draw parallels from fairy mythology of all cultures with convincing effect. But they don't stop there - devils, angels, demons, elementals, spirits and poltergeists - the parallels with contactee-UFOlogy are there in astonishing profusion. (NB: The Cottingly fairy photographs, by all accounts genuine, raise the same physical and philosophical problems as the genuine UFO photos, and the effects of people like Stella Lansing and Ted Serios who seem to be able to imprint (mentally?) images directly onto film.)

One fact emerges, constantly and consistently - the subjective experience itself. Driven by a powerful subconscious desire for psychic unity, the body becomes immobile, oblivious to its surroundings, while the conscious mind is shown archetypal material (from the collective unconscious) of such intensity that it passes for a 'real-time' experience. This in no way belittles the religious content of the experience - but in an age that has forsaken its deep-rooted need for religious experience, the old symbols hold little conviction. It was Jung's discovery that the UFO was a new symbol of psychic unity - the gesture originating as an expression of the anima, the circle being the sign of integration and wholeness.

Symbolic journeys are an ancient archetype (eg the mainstay of shamanism) - being taken to another planet, often Paradise-like, or simply travelling in or entering the saucer is its contemporary clothing. The different forms of this experience are gone into at length, and even give rise to an interesting theory of the origin of MIB phenomena, which in this context has much in common with poltergeistery. It is dangerous to dismiss as being "all in the mind". The authors examine the idea that these states of mind are accompanied by great releases of psychic energy, capable of manifesting phenomena that transcend normal concepts of space and time, and are directly responsible for the more ephemeral items in the contactee repertoire - teleportation of the body; psychosomatic wounds (stigmata); audio and visual phenomena; interference with machines by PK; etc. Emergence from this state also brings well-known symptoms - incoherance, paralysis, amnesia; or in a more positive form, healing, rejuvenation and personality changes. There is necessary discussion of this strange state of mind but it is not obtrusive, the authors prefering to ignore the basically unanswerable questions (eg Why just some people, and what triggers them off - there is no data or depth study of these aspects available as yet); they concentrate on the effects and symptoms of that state that relate to the UFO mystery.

This is an important book - a worthy successor to Vallee's 'Passport to Magonia' - and an informal exploration (for newcomer and old-hand alike) of Jung's conviction that aerial phenomena, especially lights in the sky, were portents of "long-lasting transformations of

the collective psyche." We are being warned, as the contactees are told time and again, that our runaway materialist attitudes are destroying nature's balances. If Clark & Coleman are right, we are in considerable danger.

MAGIC AND THE MILLENNIUM by Bryan Wilson. Paladin (pb); £2.50; 547pp; bibliog & 2 indexes; ISBN 586.08208.5.
One of those mammoth sociological studies - but this concentrates on religion in dire times, when men turn to magic and a belief in a millennium, and what happens to those beliefs when the Great Day doesn't turn up, or the magic fails. It contains many insights that help us understand the sociology of dogmatic cults & magic as background to much of interest to us.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF VAMPIRES by Anthony Masters. Mayflower (pb); 60p; 259pp; bibliog & index; illust.; ISBN 583.122132.2.
For 60p, you can't go wrong. A handy encyclopedia of vampire lore and legend from all over the world. It's very well researched and I'd say a useful reference work for your library.

NB: Those readers in Britain who are trying to locate American books might try those shops listed in our Ad section (p25). They often carry many otherwise unobtainable imported books

PAPERBACKS.

'Our Haunted Planet'- John A Keel; Futura; 60p.
'The Rosicrucian Enlightenment'- Frances A Yates; Paladin; £1.50.
'Haunted Britain'- A Hippisley Coxe; Sept 75; Pan; £1.50; (illustrated gazeteer).
'The Bermuda Triangle'- Charles Berlitz; Panther; 60p.
'UFOs from behind the Iron Curtain' - J Weverbergh & I Hobana; June 75; Bantam; $1.95.
'Handbook of Psycic Discoveries'- S Ostrander & L Schroeder; July 75; Berkeley; $1.75.
'Sasquatch'- R Dahinden & D Hunter; Signet; $1.25.
'Hidden Worlds: Fresh Clues to the Past'- Vander Veer & Moerman; Bantam; $1.50.

HARDBACKS.

'Miracles of the Gods'- E Von Daniken; Oct 75; Souvenir Press; £4.00.
'The Magic of Findhorn'- Paul Hawken; Oct 75; Souvenir Press; £3.50.
'Parapsychology & the Nature of Life'- John Randall; Oct 75; Souvenir Press; £3.50.
'Apparitions'- Celia Green & Charles McCreery; June 75; Hamish Hamilton; £3.75.
'The Mothman Prophecies'- John A Keel; Mar 75; Saturday Review Press; $7.95.
'Other Worlds, Other Universes: Playing the Reality Game'- Brad Steiger & John White, eds; June 75; Doubleday; $7.95.
'Phantom Soldiers'- Raymond F Brown; June 75; Drake; $9.95.
'PK: Mind over Matter'- Jose Feola; May 75; Dillon; $6.95.
'Life after Death?'- MQ Sibley; Sept 75; Dillon; $6.95.
'Living Aura: Radiation Field Photography & The Kirlian Effect'- Kendall Johnson; June 75; Hawthorn; $15.00.
'The Probability of the Impossible'- Thelma Moss; JP Tarcher; $10.00.
'The Bermuda Triangle Mystery: Solved'- Lawrence D Kuche; Mar 75; Harper & Row; $10.00.
'UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors'- Raymond E Fowler; Exposition Press; $8.50.

DID YOU SEE..?

'Americans hope for Proof of Noah's Ark'- Dudley Lynch. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 31 March 75.

'Stanford Workshop on Extraterrestrial Civilisations: Opening a new Scientific Dialog'- JB Carlson & PA Sturrock. ASTRONAUTICS & AERONAUTICS, June 75.

'Hi, Columbus! Like the Trip?'- pre-Columbian contacts summarized by Peter Gwynne. Also, a report on the 2nd world conference of the Ancient Astronauts. NEWSWEEK, 9 June 75.

POPULAR SCIENCE, June 75. Jack Bowers (Stanford U.) sends out very low frequency radio signals from Siple Station, Antarctica, to antennae at Roberval, Canada, as part of some magnetosphere experiments. They leave Siple at 100kW, but some mysterious process boosts them to an extraordinary degree. At Roberval they appear to represent a broadcasting power of 100,000kW.

NATURE, 10 July 75 - Prof Thomas Gold's (Cornell U.) work on relativity and ageing.

'Our Victor'- by Mervyn Jones. SUNDAY TIMES MAGAZINE, 13 July 75. a preview/precis of a new biography of Victor Grayson, the Welsh MP whose mystery vanishing has remained unsolved for 55 years. ('The Strange Case of Victor Grayson' by Reg Groves; Pluto Press; £2.00.)

'New Clues to the Stonehenge Masterminds'- Ronald Schiller. READERS DIGEST, Sept 75.

Two items on the 'Zeta Reticuli' starmap. The map is hotly debated in the July & August issues of ASTRONOMY. Universal Studios have completed a dramatized documentary based on the famous Betty and Barney Hill UFO kidnap case, scripted from John G Fuller's 'Interrupted Journey' and with advice from many of the principals in the case, including Mrs Hill. The map and other details of the case, reconstructed under hypnotic regression are featured in the film, scheduled to be shown on NBC-TV (USA) sometime in Sept or Oct. Lets hope the UK can eventually get a peek too. Photos of the film-making in NATIONAL ENQUIRER, 12 Aug 75.

NEW SCIENTIST, 3 July: p7, mention of a debate at the Royal Society on Lunar Transient Phenomena (LTPs) with the suggestion that these lights in the lunar landscape (which Fort collected notes on) may have some connexion with moonquakes. This theory could be verified with existing records both of the heap of earthbound

observations, and data from the litter left by recent visitors to the moon. It would also provide a useful comparison with the aerial lights observed (and usually ignored) during terrestrial quakings (see Fort again.) - - 11 Sept: 'Scientists Attack Astrology' Martin Sherwood looks at the recent vaporings of many scientists. 168 of them signed a public statement, supported by two critical articles (see THE HUMANIST for Sept 75) deploring the popular interest in such obvious rubbish. Yawn! - - 18 Sept: after yelling at us gullible plebs, the scientists had their own fevered rampage of speculation following the announcement of the discovery of a magnetic monopole, which as far as I can understand it, is like finding one end of a stick! (see NS v67 p412 for a good summary). Now the wet blankets are out, and the profession is indulging in a little intellectual self-flagellation.

'A Leap in the Dark' - a four part TV series (BBC2, Fridays, 19 &26 Sept, 3 & 10 Oct) on the paranormal, introduced by Colin Wilson. The first dealt with the Anne-Marie Schneider poltergeist from Rosenheim, Germany. The second, about psychic detective Gerard Croiset. The third will be about the multiple personalities of 'Miss Beauchamp'. The 4th is unknown as we go to press. The format seems to be a filmed case, then studio discussion with Prof John Taylor, Anita Gregory, and that professional spoilsport Dr Chris Evans. A note in The Sun (12 Sept 75. Cr: Ann Williams) disclosed that as the first film was being edited a poltergeist interfered with sound equipment and lights in the cutting room. A likely story!

The INFO JOURNAL No15 - Ron Willis's last article, on the most haunted mountain in Scotland, Ben MacDhui — Richard Hall on aerial anomalies at sea — 'New Light on Mayan Origins' by Wally Kennicutt (an important step backward) — Stuart Greenwood on 'Underwater Bases in the Bermuda Triangle' — Paul A Roales on a meteorological puzzle, bands of red light — X and Richard Hall with more on 'Flight 19' — Jacob Ornstein & WW Gage on the Eco-linguistics of ET communication — a critique of Costello's 'In Search of Lake Monsters' by Loren Coleman — and more historical notes located by Ronald Dobbins & 'Frater Ignoramus'. This issue should be on its way (by sea) to the subscribers outside the USA by now. From No16 INFOJO goes thinner and bi-monthly in an effort to achieve regular and frequent publication. More details of INFO can be had from the editor of THE NEWS, or write to INFO, Box 367, Arlington Va 22210, USA.

LANTERN, the journal of the Borderline Science Investigation Group (BSIG) No10, Summer 75 - 'Signs from Heaven', notes on East Anglian aerial visions — Ivan Bunn on 'Norfolk's Phantom Coaches' — 'The Castle Acre Diamond' another 'ley' pattern?, by RTA Hill — plus other notes. Annual sub. only 70p from BSIG, 3 Dunwich Way, Lowestoft, NR32 4RZ, E Anglia.

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, June 75, v21 n1. - reports on landing cases from Burbank, California, and Stelling Minnis, near Canterbury, England — Gordon Creighton on 'Underwater Base off Venezuela' — part 4 of the Stella Lansing saga in which apparent paranormal imposition of images occurs on the films she uses, an investigation by Dr Berthold Schwarz. — Charles Bowen reports a remarkable teleportation of a car in South Africa — Jerome Clark on a curious encounter between a 'Frightened Creature' and a farmer in a country road in Wisconsin — A Schneider & E Berger on UFOs in the Bavarian Alps — part 3 of the 'Mysterious "UMMO" affair — and Jerry Clark again with a critique of John Keel's 'The Mothman Prophecies'.

THE LEY HUNTER No66 - Paul Screeton relates two encounters with two "earth gnomes", "curiously disproportionate to our senses." — Paul Devereux & Andy York with curious stones in 'The Forgotten Heart of Albion — two discussions of ley theories & metaphysics — and an account of a weekend at Carnac before 1930, thoroughly curious. A very interesting issue. Edited by Paul Screeton: 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT. 1yr:£1.50/$6.00.

INFINITY NEWSLETTER - 'A search for Truth from many Sources' news & views on ESP, Metaphysics, Paranormal subjects, UFOs & related subjects. from Other Dimensions Inc: Box 140, Decorah, Iowa 52101, USA. 1yr: $3.50, USA & Canada;$7.00, all other countries (airmailed).

QUEST - a quarterly magazine of esoteric & practical magic. 1yr: £1.20. from BCM-SCL QUEST, London WC1V 6XX.

SPECTRUM - a magazine of the Occult, edited by Michael Howard. No6 has a review of a German study of alchemy not yet available in English translation — more on little known episodes in the life of Crowley — articles on magical principles, and reincarnation. No7 includes an article by Dion Fortune — RM White on the identity of the 'horned Gods' of pagan Britain — Mike Howard on 'Holy Places of America' — plus articles on magical principles, groups, and the 'Luna Ritual'. 1yr: £2.00. from Bywood Publications Ltd, 62 High St, Croydon, Surrey.

NEARA JOURNAL - a quarterly collection of articles from the New England Antiquities Research Association. $4.00/yr. from NEARA: 4 Smith St, Milford, New Hampshire 03055, USA.

As a postscript to this disaster issue of Summer 75, we can end on a dramatic note. As your editor s in the final stages of nailing this issue together over the weekend 27/28 Sept, there are gales of 70mph being recorded; rooves of houses in Cheshire being ripped off; people lost at sea; the coldest Sept recorded in the Cairngorms for many a year; and it's very wet. And in many parts of the country, especially here in Aldermaston for the last 24hrs, the power cables are down and we're working by candlelight. Real pioneer stuff!